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**Mercy Me!**  
Merce Cunningham Dance Company dazzles Bay Area.  
see Arts section



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 15 • 9 April 1998

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The legendary José Sarria

## Empress José in hospital

by Mike Salinas

**S**an Francisco's most enduring and visible symbol of gay royalty, Empress José (The Widow Norton) Sarria, is hospitalized in New York City with ailments that friends describe as painful, but not life-threatening.

Sarria, 75, was admitted to St. Vincent's Hospital in Greenwich Village on Saturday, March 28 after suffering a small stroke. According to his attorney, Steven Rasher, the stroke was "very minor," but doctors at St. Vincent's found Sarria had additional health problems, including meningitis.

"It isn't spinal meningitis," Rasher told the B.A.R., "but some other strain. He also has shingles."

Sarria is known throughout the world as Empress I of San Francisco, a title he created for himself in 1964 by announcing he was the widow of the legendary "Emperor Joshua Norton," a colorful character from the city's past who died in the 19th century. Three years later a successor was chosen in an election that became the foundation of the Imperial Court system, which has since raised millions of dollars for worthwhile gay, lesbian, and AIDS-related causes. Sarria still holds the title of Empress Grand Mere, and leads a festive and colorful procession to Norton's grave every year, attended by scores of friends and onlookers, to reiterate his claim.

Sarria also appears at numerous charity functions every year, particularly events involving the Imperial Court, and last year played the Sugar Plum Fairy in the annual Dance-Along Nutcracker presented by the Winds of Freedom, the seated version of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band. At the time of his hospitalization, he was visiting New York to attend the coronation of an Em-

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## Judge rejects eviction protection for PWAs, elderly

Tom Ammiano and Tenants Union vow to fight on

by Mark Mardon

**S**ome San Francisco landlords may be grinning now that a local judge has voided the city's new owner move-in eviction ordinance, designed to protect renters with AIDS and other disabilities, but if Supervisor Tom Ammiano and tenant-rights advocates have their way, they won't be gloating for long.

In response to Superior Court Judge Raymond Williamson's ruling last Friday, April 3 nullifying the city's moratorium on owner move-in evictions, Ammiano said he would urge City Attorney Louise Renne to appeal the decision, which he termed "unfounded."

"With the longtime homes of hundreds of seniors and people with AIDS hanging in the balance, fighting for this law is a moral and legal imperative," Ammiano said.

What the judge did, Ammiano added at a

page 18 ►



Fighting mad: Supe Tom Ammiano and a coalition of tenant and senior groups held an April 6 press conference outside City Hall.

## Gay skaters come out smiling

by Jim Provenzano

**A**s one might expect at any skating competition, a number of the nearly 1,000 competitors expected at the fifth annual U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships at the Oakland Ice Center next weekend are gay — but it is a much smaller number that are out of the closet. Fortunately, fans of openly gay athletes will get to watch two exceptions to the rule in the three-day event of singles, doubles, and ice dancing programs sponsored by Berkeley's St. Moritz Skating Club April 16-19.

And Jay Kobayashi and Jim Kerber are not only out, they have excelled in their sport.

Kobayashi took up skating at the age of 23 in 1994. "I watched the Olympics and said, 'I want to do that,'" he recalls, "so I went to the rink and took to it quickly."

He says he's glad he's one of those skaters who entered the sport "because you want to do it, not because your parents are telling you. For me, it's something from within."

But Kobayashi didn't come to the sport completely inexperienced. Having studied and performed many dance styles in San Francisco, he brought with him a great technical skill — and a love of creative expression.

"By junior high," he says, "my ambition was to be an Ann-Margret back-up dancer."

After a slew of dance jobs, he began to skate seriously. "I wanted to learn how to skate backwards. That's the first thing after not falling down." As he improved and realized skating was something he could really do, the next step was private lessons.

Being a dancer also increased his creative flair. "I did a piece with a hula number for the artistic program," he recalls. "You can go outside the boundaries. You have to be a lit-

tle bit different, to make it stand out from the others."

Although Kobayashi admits "I'm not technically the best jumper," he also says, "I keep myself up there" because his extensive performing experience gives him the edge on his artistic scores. "Judges are looking at flow and speed, the sureness of your movements," he says. "Last year I tied with a guy: I think I landed one jump and he landed seven, but I tied with him because I can skate."

With all his performing experience, why has Kobayashi not joined an ice skating show? "Ten years ago I was going to do to a show, but as I get older, I want to be more grounded. To be on the road is not glamorous."

How does he contend with being an adult in what is often considered a teen sport? "With different leagues now, we adults have a chance to prove ourselves. A double jump

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## Diving added to Gay Games competitions

by Nellie Voss

**I**n view of the many requests for a diving competition at Gay Games '98, the organization has decided to add the sport to the swimming program of the games in Amsterdam this summer. However, registration closes April 30 — just a couple of weeks away.

The competition days are Monday, August 3; Tuesday, August 4; and Thursday, August 6. The competition will follow FINA regulations, and participants must be licensed by their national diving association affiliated with FINA.

The tournament will take place at the Sportfondsenbad in Amersfoort, the same venue where the swimming contest will be held. The pool for the diving competition is unique for the Netherlands: this indoor 25-meter pool has a tower ten meters high.

Participants for swimming don't need to pay an additional fee for this event, but others must pay a fee of \$52 (NLG 110). ▼

For registration forms send a letter, fax, or e-mail to Jeroen Koomen, P.O. Box 2837, 1000 CV Amsterdam, The Netherlands; email: jkoomen@gaygames.nl; fax: +31 20 626 1998.

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# KQED rejects arbitration award in HIV discrimination suit

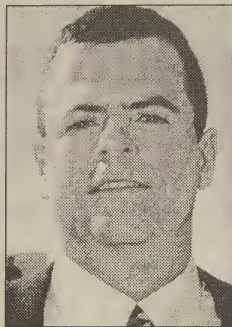
by Mark Mardon

Local public-broadcasting company KQED, renowned for its aggressive fundraising drives, has found yet another way to keep its coffers full. It has denied a former employee with AIDS the money an arbitrator ruled it should pay because of its discriminatory actions toward the man.

The former KQED senior accountant, Scott Flesher, sued the corporation in April of 1997, charging a new management team brought in to shore up the media enterprise's sagging fortunes deliberately harassed him for taking too many sick days, an inefficiency the fiscal-minded managers didn't appreciate.

Named in Flesher's suit, in addition to the KQED corporate entity, was KQED Controller Leo Mauro, who Flesher contended repeatedly badgered him on the job, asking him why he needed to see doctors so often, telling him he did so too much. Another manager kept asking Flesher why he was losing weight. That individual reportedly was aware that weight loss is a symptom of AIDS.

According to Flesher's attor-



James Goodfellow

neys, Paul Wotman and James Goodfellow, when Flesher revealed to KQED management that he had HIV, Mauro stepped up his harassment, "making his work life unbearable," Flesher testified that Mauro told him point-blank that he intended to "get rid" of him.

Under California law, employees are protected from discrimination based on HIV status.

For its part, KQED denied any wrong-doing in the matter.

"Our position is Flesher did not ever tell his supervisor of his

HIV status," said David Suddendorf, who is representing KQED in the matter. "He was not fired, he quit."

The case may end up going to trial, despite efforts at mediation between the parties.

Last week, KQED rejected an arbitrator's award of \$219,000 to Flesher. Though the arbitrator found in Flesher's favor, Suddendorf said the arbitration was non-binding, and that his client feels "there is no merit to the plaintiff's allegations."

In response to the flap, KQED President and CEO Mary Bitterman issued a terse statement, saying only that "KQED is committed to a diverse and inclusive work environment where all employees are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect. Any form of discrimination — on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or age — cannot be tolerated."

But for Flesher and his attorneys, that statement rings hollow.

"We gave them the chance to do the right thing," said Goodfellow. "If KQED didn't do anything wrong, why did a fact-finder rule against them to the amount of \$219,000?" ▼

# Small shot at stardom for Castro

Hollywood pays \$2,500 to invade

by Cynthia Laird

America's best-known gay mecca, the Castro, will be invaded by Hollywood on Thursday, April 16, when motion picture director Ron Howard films part of his new comedy in front of the famous Castro Theatre. However, although one of America's better-known lesbians, Ellen DeGeneres, stars in the movie being filmed, she will not be among those in attendance, sources have told the Bay Area Reporter.

The filming will force parking in the Castro to be severely curtailed, and the street will be closed to traffic and pedestrians during actual filming of the scene. The

parking spaces will be needed by equipment trucks and prop cars that will be in the film.

Patrick Batt, president of Merchants of Upper Market and Castro (MUMC), told the B.A.R. that he was successful in negotiating \$2,500 from Universal Pictures that will go into the Castro Beautification Fund. The contribution is important, Batt said, because the studio didn't have to contribute anything to the Castro. MUMC is in the process of developing a policy to use as a guideline anytime anyone wishes to close a public street for private purposes and is soliciting input from members of the business association.

"Ron Howard really wants the neighborhood," Batt said of the

director's decision to come to the Castro. The film, a comedy set in San Francisco, stars DeGeneres, Matthew McConaughey, Woody Harrelson, and Elizabeth Hurley.

Areas affected by the closure will include all parking spaces in the 400 block of Castro, the 2300 block of Market Street, on the south side, and the northern side of 18th Street between Hartford and Castro streets. Batt said that while there will only be a very brief amount of actual filming, the whole day has been blocked out from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. There will be about 150 staff people and 30 extras involved.

"Deliveries to your business might be hampered on that day," Batt said. ▼

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# Teens terrorize gay man near G.G. windmills

by Mark Mardon

It was almost like a scene out of *The Wild One*, the 1954 Marlon Brando film in which a gang of young hellions terrorizes a small town. But the incident was all too real early Tuesday morning for a San Francisco man who found himself trapped and chased down by drag-racing, hell-raising teenagers who apparently decided to "get" a gay man cruising the western end of Golden Gate Park.

The incident started at about 2 a.m. Tuesday, April 7, when the 38-year-old man (who asked that his name be withheld) started to leave the park. He had been there for several hours, walking the pathways in the area bordering the Great Highway, between the two Dutch windmills.

That stretch of the park, for decades a gay cruising area, in recent weeks has been the focus of police efforts to crack down on public sex. But in the wee hours of Tuesday morning, no police were in evidence.

All night long, a party had been going on at nearby Ocean Beach, where the sounds of drumming and raucous shouting could be heard. Kids had been drag racing up and down the Great Highway, and through the park. The man mostly ignored the goings-on, however, instead enjoying the misty night, the moonlight, and encounters with other gay men strolling through the bushes. His black leather jacket kept him warm.

But as he headed down Martin

Luther King Jr. Drive toward Lincoln Way, near the Murphy Windmill, he passed behind three parked cars. Suddenly all three vehicles revved their engines. Two spun around and tried to box him in. Another sped around to Lincoln Way, trying to block a possible retreat that way. He heard the occupants yell, "Get him!"

"They were flooring it, coming after me," the man said. "I ran into woods, which I knew pretty well. I hid in tall grass."

As soon as he ran for cover, one of the cars screeched to a halt. Two young men got out and began advancing toward him, waving what he took to be chains over their heads.

"I was convinced I would be killed," said the man. "I was cowering in the woods, hiding until I got a break."

Time and again he attempted to escape his trap, but the cars kept speeding around, barreling down on him, cutting him off.

Although he couldn't be sure how many teenagers rode in the cars, he guessed three each in two Jimmy's, and a single teenager in a white Mustang. In fact, he recognized the Mustang's driver as a Lincoln High student who on a previous night had come up to him and a homeless friend and asked, "What goes on around here?"

"He was really getting a kick out of cornering me in the woods," said the man.

Finally he managed to run across Lincoln Way, and didn't stop running till he reached a 7-Eleven on Judah Street, where he was able

to phone for police, who arrived in 10 to 15 minutes. While two officers gave him a safe ride home, others went to scout the scene.

Still, he reflects, at the time of the incident, "It was odd there were no police down there. Surely some neighbors were upset by all the drag racing going on."

The man reported the incident to Community United Against Violence. ▼

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## 'No on Prop. 1' worker says he's shaken, but not stirred, by gunshot phone message

by Cynthia Laird

The campaign surrounding San Francisco Supervisor Leeland Yee's project notification ballot initiative, Proposition 1, has turned ominous for one gay member of the No on 1 committee. According to San Francisco Redevelopment Commissioner Mark Dunlop, who is involved with the San Franciscans for Fairness, No on Proposition 1 Committee, someone left a threatening message on his answering machine one day after an article about the group's organizing efforts appeared in the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Dunlop said the message, with gunshots firing and a voice eerily saying, "Yeah, this is a gun," was left Friday, March 27. Robert Barnes, the openly gay manager of the No on 1 campaign, condemned what he called "personal attacks" by proponents of the ballot measure. "We're seeing our volunteers harassed, and I think it's sad to degenerate a campaign," Barnes said.

Proposition 1 would require neighborhood notification of all city-funded projects subject to approval by any city agency. Whenever a city-funded project involves new construction, a change in use, or a significant expansion of an existing use at a specified location,

the city would be required to either mail notice to neighbors within 300 feet of the proposed site or post a 900-square-inch sign at the proposed site.

Yee has stated the initiative is about using information as power and "opening up government to neighbors." Opponents maintain the supervisor is pandering to the not-in-my-backyard (NIMBY) fears of conservative city residents, and say that if voters approve the initiative it could lead to verbal or physical harassment of people living with HIV/AIDS and others.

Dunlop maintains that the incident that just happened to him is a clear example of why people should vote against it.

"This is the whole argument against Proposition 1," he told the *B.A.R.* "People out there are fearful and dangerous, and Proposition 1 panders to those people. I felt really creepy the first day after the message. It's probably an idle threat — but it's someone who could possibly throw a rock into housing for people living with HIV/AIDS." He added that he didn't intend to stop working to defeat Proposition 1.

Yee could not be reached for comment, but an aide at his office expressed surprise upon hearing of the alleged threat against Dunlop. ▼

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# Causey quits ABC

by Cynthia Laird

Paul Causey has abruptly resigned as executive director of AIDS Benefits Counselors (ABC), effective immediately. Board President Robert Emerson denied rumors on Friday, April 3 that Causey was fired, and Causey himself told the *Bay Area Reporter* his decision to quit was "voluntarily." Emerson said the board will take up the leadership issue at its next meeting on April 23. No interim executive has been hired, and Emerson said he's spending more time at the office in his capacity as president.

Causey's resignation comes on the heels of public criticism of his leadership through op-ed pieces and letters to the editor in the *B.A.R.* Former ABC consultant Paul Vander Waerdt and Health Commissioner Ron Hill blasted the agency and alleged misfeasance on the part of administrators. Gary Virginia and George Heymont countered with letters questioning the motives of Causey's critics. Causey himself wrote a guest opinion piece just last month and gave no indication of his plans to leave the agency he's led since 1994.

This week, both Causey and Emerson attempted to put the best spin possible on the situation. "I'm going to try and relax," Causey told the *B.A.R.* from his San Francisco home. "I'm in the running for another executive director [position]."

In a written statement, Emerson praised Causey's leadership of the organization. "Paul Causey's dedication to the work of ABC and our clients, and the many long, hard hours he worked has been a key in building and maintaining ABC's client-centered approach to services and he has been an inspiration to me personally in the time that I have been associated with the organization," stated Emerson.

Emerson credited Causey with guiding the agency through critical years that included revamping the way in which ABC provides benefits counseling and advocacy, creation of an outreach program that places services in the areas where people with HIV/AIDS are most difficult to reach like the Tenderloin and Mission, and an HIV provider training program that helps assure that people living with AIDS throughout Northern California have access to benefits counseling services.

Causey was born in Central

Florida and has been active in the local gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community since moving here from Los Angeles in 1987. In 1994 he co-produced the Cable Car Award-winning *Jeffrey* movie premiere at the Palace of Fine Arts as a benefit for ABC and the AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF). He served as vice president of the AEF board and received that organization's Hank Cook Outstanding Community Achievement Award last year. Currently he is on the board of Deaf Communities Together, a new nonprofit umbrella organization for gay, lesbian, and women's deaf groups. He is also the host of the cable television program *TK*.

"I accomplished at AIDS Benefits Counselors all that I came to do, including diversifying the funding base, doubling the staff and budget, and positioning it in the eyes of the community as one of our most valuable resources," stated Causey. "I am confident that ABC, under the guidance of its board, will continue to deliver the individual and professional service for which it is best known." He praised the staff and volunteers of ABC for their dedication.

## Going down: Hill

Of Causey's many contributions to the agency, Emerson said that perhaps the greatest was overseeing the successful merger of ABC with Positive Resources,

which resulted in creating the ABC Positive Resource Center, the nation's first program to help people living with AIDS who are doing well on the new treatments and desire to return to work in a manner that does not jeopardize their access to healthcare and income benefits.

Ironically, it was issues around personnel and the job-seeking component that led to the criticism of Causey going public. The announcement at the Mayor's Summit on HIV/AIDS in January that an employment development unit (EDU) would be created within the Department of Public Health (DPH), to assist PWAs interested in entering or re-entering the work force, started the barrage of criticism and ended Vander Waerdt's contract as a consultant.

But not everyone is pleased with the recent events at ABC. Hill, who has been critical of Causey, nonetheless was not happy that Emerson, who he said has little nonprofit expertise, is now overseeing the agency.

"What's been done is not good," Hill told the *B.A.R.* "What needs to happen with the organization, if it's interested in delivering services, is as a community, we need to assist them in getting a working board."

"I want them to get their act together and that's all I ever wanted. The way it's going, it's getting worse by the minute." ▼

## Transgenders and SFPD to hold community forum

by Eric M. Rose

The Transgender Community Task Force will hold a forum on police harassment in coordination with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission on Thursday, April 16 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The forum will be held in the Department of Public Health Building, 101 Grove Street at Polk, in room 300 and is open to all members of the transgender community.

Present at the forum will be the police captains of the Tenderloin, Central Station, and Mission station police task forces, which represent the areas where most transgender persons live and work, and where most of the transgender's police complaints come from. Also present will be a

representative from the Sheriff's department; Mary Dunlap, executive director of the Office of Citizen's Complaints (OCC); transgender police sergeant Stephan Thorne; and Lea Miletello, the LGBT community liaison for the police department.

According to Larry Brinkin, coordinator of the LGBT and HIV unit of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission [SFHRC], the forum is being held because "at almost every meeting [of the Transgender Community Task Force] over the past couple of years, transgendered folks have come to complain" about police treatment and jail conditions. Furthermore, Brinkin says, "the complaints were common and severe enough that the task force met with members of the police department to say, 'We're getting all of these complaints — what can we do about it?' They then decided to call a broader community forum."

The issues that will be addressed at the forum include: direct verbal and physical harassment from the SFPD; protocols of the police department, such as the language used in police reports (using the proper pronouns when referring to transgendered persons, for example); and the fact that many people in the Tenderloin who are perceived to be transgendered are harassed because they are automatically assumed to be sex workers by.

"It might be a little painful," suggest Brinkin, "because of the complaints the transgender folks have. But I hope it will also be productive." ▼

For more information, call the Transgender Community Task Force at 281-9445, or the SFHRC at 252-2518.

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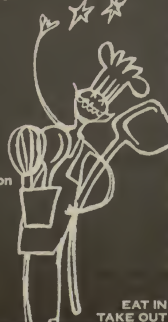
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# NTFAP quits local programs

## BCA set to take over New Village

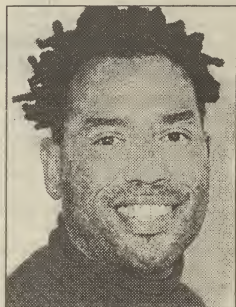
by Cynthia Laird

New Village, one of three local programs administered by the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention (NTFAP), is set to be run by Black Coalition on AIDS (BCA), according to Dick Pabich, HIV/AIDS policy advisor to Mayor Willie Brown. The move, which Pabich confirmed Friday, April 3, is the first of an expected major reshuffling brought about by the financial crisis at NTFAP. Pabich said negotiations are continuing between potential fiscal agents for the other two local programs, Proyecto ContralSIDA Por Vida and the Native American AIDS Project (NAAP).

The implosion at NTFAP is the result of a deficit that Pabich put at \$500,000, which came to light last month when Chief Executive Officer Mario Solis-Marich asked the mayor's office for \$300,000 to help carry the task force through until June. That request and subsequent ones have been turned down by the mayor's office, although the city is committed to keeping the local programs running without interruption.

Norm Nickens, with the Department of Public Health (DPH), said that it's his understanding all local programs remain open, although some, if not all, have abbreviated hours.

New Village, formerly called the Brothers Network, is the most problematic of the task force's local programs, Pabich told the B.A.R.



Duane Poe

While the fiscal problems of the NTFAP go back several years, and the agency revamped New Village last year, the model apparently wasn't working. "Basically, they weren't seeing enough people, there were not enough units of service [UOS]," Pabich said.

Duane Poe, executive director of BCA, said that his organization and Reverend Yvette Flunder's Ark of Refuge were working together to ensure a smooth transition as quickly as possible. Nickens would not confirm that BCA will definitely take over New Village, but did acknowledge that negotiations are "pretty far along."

Poe said that a community meeting held April 2 to discuss the crisis at New Village was well attended. "I think it went well," said Poe. "We are committed to seeing New Village thrive and flourish." He said he's well aware of the low UOS at the former task

force program.

Poe said that while BCA has been viewed as primarily serving African-American heterosexuals, they hope that by assuming leadership of New Village that will change. "BCA has a wide range of programs and I see this as a way to integrate the program and provide a continuum of care for African-American people."

"This is the one that's furthest along," said Nickens, adding he was frantically working to expedite invoices so that NTFAP employees could get paid, and said some of them have just received paychecks. Nickens said the agency missed an April 1 payroll. He also said that as of Monday, April 6, task force workers had not received layoff notices, and that Marich ordered the programs to close their doors as of Friday, April 3. The DPH was informed of this action late on Thursday, April 2.

Pabich commended the local program staff, who essentially volunteered to work last Friday.

Nickens's and Pabich's accounts of the timing surrounding last week's flurry of activity contradicted Marich's version of the actions he took last week. Marich told the B.A.R. that the decision was made last Tuesday, March 31. He also said layoff notices had been issued to staff. Marich charged that DPH officials have made it nearly impossible for the task force to raise private funds and that when a last-ditch attempt to get city money was denied, he had no choice but to cease operating the local programs. ▼

## BMX to host 2nd Oakland mayor forum

by Cynthia Laird

All 11 candidates vying for the job to be Oakland's next mayor have been invited to talk about issues affecting the queer community and HIV/AIDS at a community forum hosted by the Black Men's Exchange (BMX) next Friday, April 17 in Oakland. BMX member Roosevelt Mosby, Jr. said the event is free and open to the public, and will be preceded by a happy hour social.

This will be the second forum for the candidates hosted by BMX, an organization of African-American gay and bisexual men. The first forum, last November, was very well attended and featured four candidates who had

gotten an early start in the race.

The field has quickly become crowded since Mayor Elihu Harris announced he was not going to seek a third term. All of the candidates except Alameda County Supervisor Mary King appeared at a lively debate in the Lake Merritt area Monday, April 6. With only eight weeks until the election, former California Governor Jerry Brown is the candidate to beat and some polls show his closest opponent, City Councilmember Ignacio De La Fuente trailing badly. In order to avoid a November runoff between the top two finishers, a candidate needs to win 50 percent plus one in the June 2 election to win outright.

The other candidates running for the opportunity to be Oak-

land's top elected official are: Hugh Bassette, a teacher at Fremont High School in Oakland; Leo Bazile, a former city councilmember; Edward Blakely, an urban planning professor; Ces Butner, businessman; Maria G. Harper, a spiritual values leader; Audrey Rice Oliver, a high tech consultant; Hector Reyna, a "clean government" proponent; and Shannon Reeves, former president of the Oakland NAACP and the only Republican in the race. ▼

**BMX's forum starts with happy hour at 6 p.m., followed by the event at 8, at the YMCA Building, 1515 Webster Street in downtown Oakland. For more info, call BMX at (510) 986-0928.**

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## OPEN FORUM

## The love that dare not remain silent

As these words are being written on Wednesday afternoon, gay and lesbian students (mostly to the east of California) are holding a National Day of Silence. The day-long protest was started three years ago in Virginia, and is so far concentrated in mid-Atlantic and midwestern states, which is why it's a "national" event that most of us haven't heard much about.

All day long, queer students and their supporters are refusing to speak, and are instead handing out pre-printed cards explaining that they are protesting the enforced silence endured by most young gays and lesbians. There's no question that the issue needs to be addressed, although we wonder how effective silence is. Perhaps what's called for is a National Day of Bitching.

As long as silence=death, which (meaning no offense to our deaf friends) it still does and always will, we're afraid that the action—or, more precisely, inaction—will go unnoticed by the people who most need to be confronted. Even so, we wish the protesters the best and urge them to continue their fight to be heard. Even when they don't make a sound.

Enforced silence comes in many packages, of course. Some, like the parental and peer pressures that force queer kids to shut up, are obviously odious. Others are more subtle. One proposal that's being floated through San Francisco's City Hall is less self-evidently troublesome, but it, too, muzzles the population. We are referring to the Brown administration's apparent desire to remove all free-standing news racks from the streets.

The Bay Area Reporter celebrates its anniversary this month, and now that we're in our 28th year we have to acknowledge that newsracks have helped make our success possible. Moreover, they have made it possible for closeted gays and lesbians (yes, they exist, even in San Francisco) to pick up copies of papers inconspicuously, comfort-

ably, and conveniently. This is not the only paper that serves the Bay Area's communities-within-communities by providing news readers aren't likely to get elsewhere. This week's Bay Guardian, for instance, has a splendid cover story about (of all things) the forced silence of queer kids who get locked into institutions. It's a story we've covered in our pages as well, but it's good to know heterosexual Guardian readers will learn this week about the horrors of conversion therapy; most probably did not know that young gays still suffer from hospital-administered electroshocks (although not so frequently to the brain anymore—now genitals are the favored target).

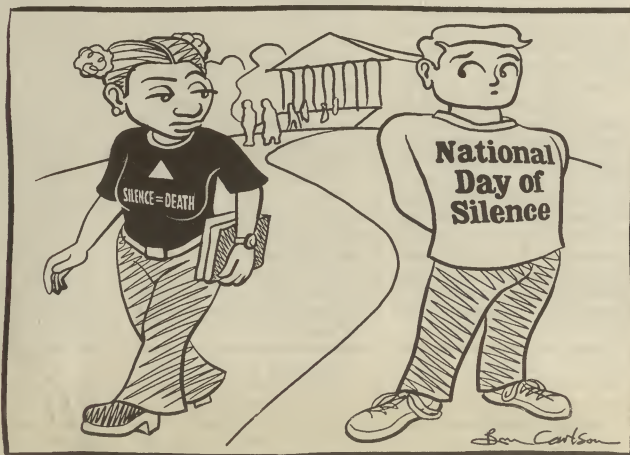
If the administration carries through on



## Editorial

a newsrack proposal that is still in a sketchy and somewhat nebulous stage, the current stands would be replaced by pedestal stands in the same brass and green color scheme as the city's pay toilets and advertising kiosks. (Apparently that ubiquitous green is meant to disguise the lack of trees, now that the city's gone on a rampage of timber-felling in our public spaces.) The number of papers available to the citizenry would be cut by as much as 90 percent, and one person would apparently have complete control over which papers got those precious slots.

It's an invitation to patronage, an assault on the public's right to know, and a terrible idea, no matter how elegant the verdant wrapping. ▼



## Share bread with the hungry

by Reverend Jim Mitulski

They're depressing."  
"They make me uncomfortable."  
"They're hard to look at."  
"The sight of them makes me feel helpless."  
"The sight of them makes me feel angry."  
"I know it's wrong, but I wish they wouldn't be so visible."  
"They're bad for business ... it's a real turn-off for tourists to see them on the streets."

If you were in the Castro about seven years ago, you will remember these and other statements—honest statements made by good people who were troubled by the sight of so many people visibly sick with AIDS.

There were dire predictions about the death of the Castro as measured in economic and social terms. Although everyone was capable of these thoughts, those of us who had relationships of any sort with the people who made many uncomfortable moved through these thoughts, and kept doing what we could, in small ways and in large ways, pressuring government to bring its resources to bear, and remaining faithful to our friends.

This same rhetoric is surfacing today, in relation to the presence of the homeless who call the Castro neighborhood home. Some—though not all—members of one merchants organization favor a campaign posting signs in shop windows and on bus shelters, instructing visitors and residents not to give money to these "panhandlers" and "chronic vagrants." Sadly, three social service organizations have endorsed this campaign in exchange for being listed as beneficiaries, allowing their names to be used on posters in our neighborhood that they wouldn't hang in the windows of their

agencies, all located safely away from Castro Street.

These dehumanizing signs won't solve homelessness, but they will promote intolerance. They scapegoat an already vulnerable population.

The problems of homelessness—to merchants, tourists, and residents—are real and not easily solved. Lately, every neighborhood ill has been ascribed to this population. One frequently cited example of our neighborhood's decline is the incidence of public urination; a few years ago this was ascribed to the guys leaving the bars at closing time ... Is it possible this could still be a cause? One merchant, a proprietor of a sex shop, complained that the West Portal neighborhood doesn't tolerate this level of public homelessness ... but nor would they tolerate a gay sex shop.

With our greater freedom comes a greater responsibility to engage difficult social issues in a way that is congruent with the best principles of the gay and lesbian liberation movement. It is true that the Castro is known even among the down and out as a place of compassion and tolerance.

Our city has an army of social service providers, and yet not one agency, public or private, has a dedicated outreach worker assessing the needs of the homeless in our neighborhood. Until we grapple with the lack of affordable housing, the lack of safe shelter space, and the inadequacies of mental health and substance treatment, we will continue to see homelessness in the neighborhood we all love, just like people in every neighborhood in every city are also seeing.

There is no quick fix for homelessness. We at Metropolitan Community Church see these people as our parishioners. Our re-

ligious tradition speaks plainly to this. "Feed the hungry" is part of our creed. Just as we have continuously made our facility and resources available to the neighborhood, including many unpopular or stigmatized groups, we have begun feeding hungry people on Wednesdays (staffed by church members) and on Fridays (staffed by employees of A Different Light Bookstore). We also bring food to the needle exchange site behind Safeway on Tuesdays. We believe everyone deserves to be fed, homeless or domiciled, drunk or sober, those who receive government checks for disability or who live on SSI or GA, or those who panhandle. We provide food without judgment.

We do not think starvation is an appropriate incentive for people to change. We understand this will not fix homelessness, but we are building a relationship with people who have been written off as expendable or undesirable.

Once you have served food to the hungry, they cease to become a faceless issue, and they become people. We have learned this lesson of compassion through our experiences of being ridiculed, trivialized, or outcast by families and churches for being gay.

We invite you to become part of this relationship, whether at MCC or any neighborhood-based organization that promotes relationship with the homeless. You will be changed, and will become part of making real change happen. ▼

Jim Mitulski has been pastor of MCC San Francisco for the past twelve years. The church is located at 150 Eureka Street. To volunteer for Simply Supper, call David Gant, program director, at 865-2748.

## Guest Opinion



## LETTERS

## What straight boys do together...

I'm a straight guy and moved into the Castro-Upper Market area and I have two questions for my gay neighbors: First, what's up with this thumping, pounding beat music many of you insist on listening to as loud as possible? At my gym in the Castro, all they play and have played for years is this stuff which at first sounds like a washing machine cycling and then it goes into this repetitive, monotonous, pounding, hammering beat. It's awful! When the few guys who can't stand it ask to change the music at the gym, the "gay" majority want the bar music back. It's as if they (the performer on the CD) adds this thumping beat to any piece of music whatsoever, and viola *[sic]* — a new CD is made. Not only does my neighbor have to saturate our entire apartment building with this crap — yes, I've complained to him several times but he has a very short attention span, and he's never heard of headphones — but on my walks home from the Castro, that's pretty much all I hear coming from homes and apartments. Even on the rare occasions when this music is played quietly, that beat still cuts through even the thickest walls. Why is there this fixation with gay men and this bar music? None of my straight friends listen to this bar music. We've talked about it, we analyzed the situation and they know no one who's straight who listens to it. If it's true that only gay guys listen to this monotonous, thumping, pounding beat crap (a.k.a. bar music), what is the purpose in forcing others who don't want to hear it to listen to it?

The second question has to do with the many gay men having deliberately changed their way of talking (due to peer pressure and feeling the need to "fit in" or be "cool") by using the word "like" and the phrase "or whatever" every other word and making all of their sentences sound as if they're asking a question. They end all of their sentences "up," rather than "down," or at rest. Again, none of my straight friends talk like this. Why would people deliberately ruin their speech and try to sound terribly inarticulate, juvenile and insecure by using the words "like" and "or whatever" as often as possible and make every sentence uttered sound as a question?

Would like to have some answers to these two questions.

Gary Wayland  
San Francisco

[Editor's note: It's, like, a plot to make you straight guys move. Or whatever.]

## Speaking of intolerance...

The full-page photo and accompanying article about Sandra Bernhard by Richard Dodds in the March 26 B.A.R. Arts & Entertainment section, brought back painful memories of a show I attended during March of 1996. Ms. Bernhard was one of the entertainers featured on an RSVP cruise to Mexico. Richard Dodds called it correctly when he described her as "The performer who so merrily spews invective." I vividly remember sitting in an audience with 750 other gays and lesbians. When the beginning of her act was not positively received, Ms. Bernhard railed at the audience about their "Midwestern faggot sensibilities." At that point a man in the front row stood and threw a drink into her face. That act was met with a big round of applause, only to be succeeded by more applause when she left the stage. The evening was saved by our own Danny Williams. The entertainers for the other evenings, Nell Carter and Jimmy James, were warmly received.

My feelings about Ms. Bernhard are summarized by a paraphrase of the title of her own show — "She's still here? Damn it!" I, for one, will not be attending her show.

Dennis L. Buckley  
Brentwood, CA

## Academy of Friends

In town for the bash, last week, I picked up the issue with your article on the Academy of Friends. I just wanted to take a moment to acknowledge you for your publication's continued well-written coverage, year after year.

I hope you had the opportunity to experience this year's event, as well. The Academy Board produced their best-ever!

I'm already looking forward to next year.

Kile Ozier  
Founder, Academy of Friends  
New York, NY

## Respectfully, a liar — not a killer

Thank you for mostly excellent coverage of the Mabel Teng Zap at City Hall recently. However, while I did say that Teng was a liar, (most politicians are) I did not say that she was killing people with AIDS.

Jeff Getty  
San Francisco

## Anti-Eller (Oh, what a beautiful day)

I climbed onto three Eller Media billboards in San Francisco on March 27 and altered the messages of three tobacco companies: it was my 48th birthday, and I have wanted to neutralize the seductive messages of tobacco advertising all of my adult life.

At about 3 p.m. I climbed up a 50-foot ladder to the top of a third billboard at 151 Division Street in Vermont. When I looked down, I was surprised at how high up it was. The Lucky Strike advertisement showed a very sexy man with a cigarette in his hand, sitting on a couch in a loft space. There was an equally sexy woman at his feet. I hated this billboard because it is equating the wonderful pleasures of sex and relationships with the addiction of smoking. This billboard cost the tobacco companies over \$10,000 to rent for a month. They would need to add 30 to 50 new smokers to pay for this over a one-year period.

When I finished my work I put my paint can and brush in my jacket pocket and began the climb down. I knew better than to look down. I hung onto each ladder rung with both hands and went down one step at a time, taking a breath and counting each step. When I arrived to my wooden ladder and climbed to the ground, a plainclothes police officer was there to greet me. Question: How many San Francisco police officers does it take to arrest a gay man with a paintbrush? Answer: At least seven. They were hoping for a burglary but were stuck with me. They handcuffed me, photographed the scene, and gave me a misdemeanor citation for my work and said that they would release me if I promised not to do this again. They took my jacket, paint can, and brush, but let me walk away with my ladder.

I was annoyed that a citizen who had voted in every election since he was 18 could be arrested for taking non-violent action against a corporate giant that has knowingly contributed to the deaths of ten million people since 1960, when their own research confirmed that nicotine is an addictive substance. The tobacco companies and Eller Media have ignored the new state law authored by Carol Migden about not posting any tobacco advertising within 1000 feet of any elementary school or playground (AB752, Chapter 219). The city, state, and police have not enforced this law. As a citizen, do I have the right to enforce this law without arrest?

I believe that it is my moral obligation to fight corporate injustice wherever I see it, even if I need to go to jail. I plan to continue to paint neutralizing messages on tobacco billboards until I am in jail or all of the billboards have been removed from San Francisco's landscape. My 48th birthday was the best BD of my life and I am not dead yet.

Jim Reid  
San Francisco

## Let's (not) have a drink

Enough already with the smoker bashing! I think we smokers have been lambasted for too long. Mr. Scott Sproat's letter in the March 26 issue was the last straw for me! It's high time to go after the other "bad" vice — liquor. It seems to be getting a free ride!

Ever stop to think that maybe some of the gay bashing might stop if beer advertising was banned from billboards, TV, this publication, etc.? I've never read or heard of a gay person being bludgeoned by a smoker, only drunks and druggies. I've never read or heard of one gay spouse or partner being physically abused by the other due to either one's smoking.

And to all you gym lovers — after working so hard on those bodies, why do you feel the need to go to a bar and pollute those bodies by having one (hal) beer or drink? For that matter, does anyone need to? You can't go to a coffee house or somewhere non-alcoholic to meet other gays and have a good time?

We smokers have been banned from smoking on airplanes. Why not ban liquor on board, too? Does one really need a drink or two while flying three or four hours? One can't have water, juice, or coffee?

And to our "wonderful" Ms. Migden, who is trying so hard to rid the environment of tobacco billboards: ever see the giant Canadian Club neon sign over the freeway and the other liquor advertising visible from the roads and near our schools, Carole?

How about in 3Com park? Maybe beer should be banned from there. I can't smoke in my seat; why should I have to sit next to some drunken idiot acting stupid and rude?

What about the hunky Coors beer ads on TV portraying men in shorts having a great time in the Rockies. Aren't those ads promoting teenage and homophobic drinking?

Let us not forget that drinking causes health risks and costs to rise the same as tobacco does. And finally, since we can't smoke in bars anymore, maybe we shouldn't be able to drink in them either. Let's just shut them down!

Jim Jenkins  
San Francisco

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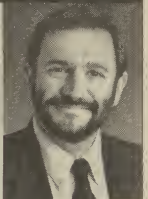
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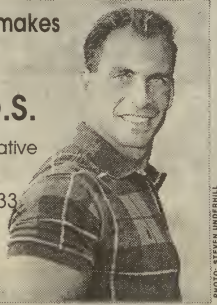


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### In support of Prop. I

Cynthia Laird's "reporting" on Prop I last week was more like hysteria in search of a cause. Notifying neighbors of new developments cannot be equated with the Nazi holocaust and the implication is despicable.

Why are the nonprofits and their developer buddies so frightened of a spinster in the Sunset trying to protect her parking spot? Instead of trying to bulldoze their projects through, why don't those overpaid heads of the nonprofits do a little leg-work and outreach into the neighborhoods where they propose projects instead of scapegoating the neighbors? Democracy is about persuading others. Fascism is about forcing things down people's throats.

Opponents of open-government like Mark Dunlop and Robert Barnes have alternately been saying that Prop I will cause radical change, BUT that it's already the law. There is no logic to this. Which is it?

Robert Barnes is leading the attack on Supervisor Yee's proposal, a fact that you didn't report. Mr. Barnes has vowed to defeat all nonprofit reform, and this is his first frontal attack. The B.A.R. has printed editorials supportive of sweeping nonprofit reforms that will open the books and meetings of all the charity-rackets, it is inconsistent that they oppose notification. When we finally have an open process at the nonprofits, the real estate dealings will be preeminently featured and the public will know about them long before the 15 days Supervisor Yee proposes. Those locations will be on the front page of every neighborhood newspaper in San Francisco. There must be some other agenda in your opposition other than succumbing to Robert Barnes's "divide and conquer" strategy. Are we only willing to look at proposals aimed at reforming the City's 8,000 nonprofit organizations IF they are written by members of our community? A major concern I have is the new anti-Asian frenzy which seems to be originating from the left. Why don't you let Supervisor Yee make his case without Ms. Laird's obvious bias?

Paul Magill  
San Francisco

[Supervisor Yee did not return our phone calls. For the record, pink triangles — like Prop. I — were initially conceived and promulgated as a sort of "community notification," not punishment. That just came later.]

### No on Prop. I

Thanks for your article on Proposition I, Supervisor Yee's Neighborhood Notification Ballot Initiative. At every public forum held on this issue, Prop I supporters have derided services and housing for people with AIDS and people with disabilities. They claim this proposition is about notice, but at every hearing, they talk about stopping community-based services and housing.

Proposition I would violate the confidentiality of residents of a building by effectively having the entire building labeled as a residence of people with special needs. With one phone call to determine the precise nature of a building's use, confidentiality is violated. Imagine posting a sign on a building to let neighbors know that an Asian family will be moving in!

Prop I would not apply to commercial establishments like fast food restaurants or big chain stores moving into a neighborhood. In fact Prop I would set up a two-tiered notice system which discriminates against those who use City-funded services.

Bill Hirsh  
Mental Health Association of San Francisco

### Truth is stranger than fiction

As a recent visitor to the Castro, I read with interest Robert Julian's review of *Chocolate Babies*, [B.A.R., March 26] the movie in which flamboyant activists set out to steal (in Mr. Julian's terms) "the government's secret list of HIV-positive citizens."

It seems important to note that these government lists aren't cinematic fiction. They already exist in 31 states where people who test HIV-positive are reported by name to the State Health Department. Lists called HIV registries are maintained, and positive people who don't return for their test results are tracked down by government workers.

The 19 other states, including California, are under strong federal pressure to start name-based HIV reporting. The California Health Department, AIDS service providers, and activists are debating what your state's response should be.

Other high-incidence states, including Florida and New Jersey, have already caved in and adopted HIV name reporting. Texas is about to.

The "frustration, anxiety and helplessness" that director Stephen Winter portrays in *Chocolate Babies* is a rational response to being marginalized, tracked and stigmatized. So is anger.

If Californians don't want their state to start naming names and keeping lists — now is the time to say so. Before it's a done deal.

Anna Forbes  
Ardmore, PA

### Red neck country

The two boys in Arkansas who killed others. I have lived in red neck areas where deer rifles were in racks of pickups. A four square minister in Grants Pass, Oregon told me if you shoot a gay it is like a deer — they have no feeling.

Everyone is concerned about the punishment. It is simple. Have them wear antlers, put on fur coats and run across a ridge.

Why is everyone so shocked? An area that hates gays and shoots innocent deer; well, regular people would be easy targets.

One of the killers asked for a bible. What would he do with it — make paper airplanes?

Chuck Kennedy  
San Francisco

### Southern culture

As both a gay man and a fairly recent transplant from Arkansas, where I was born in 1967 and escaped 30 years later, I feel qualified in saying that the media is presenting the Jonesboro story with some incorrect assumptions concerning southern, rural culture.

It is precisely because Mitchel Johnson and Andrew Golden grew up in a culture of guns and hunting — whether for sport or sustenance — that these are not the substantive issues. From early childhood, they were taught, as was I, respect for both the guns themselves and the finality of their use. What these two young men were undoubtedly not taught to respect, however, and what is being overlooked, is the value of basic human rights — specifically the rights of women and minorities as their equals in society. Through example and observation, the southern male is trained from the earliest age in the dominate/submissive, owner/property, male/female rules of behavior and conduct. Mitchel Johnson, I have no doubt, considered Candace Porter a possession — his to manage, manipulate, control, own, and even dispose of when she ended their, albeit brief, relationship.

The solutions here will happen neither overnight nor amply and do not rest with the gun control lobby or media censorship, and certainly not with the prosecution of children as adults in our judicial system. Yes, it was calculated, premeditated murder. It was planned and executed with Johnson and Golden understanding the results, if not the consequence, of their actions. Are we the type of society, though, to place an 11 and 13 year old under lock and key for the rest of their lives? Of course not. We have to trust, in this case, that the juvenile penal system will successfully deprogram a decade of installed social and political ignorance. We must stand back from the charged emotions of this particular case, always difficult when dealing with the deaths of children, and examine the broader problem. We must focus more on tomorrow's youth and less on Mitchel Johnson and Andrew Golden.

Education is, by definition, the only solution to ignorance. We must stop passing down this culture of oppression and heterosexual, male domination from generation to generation. We must pass legislation requiring all schools, in all parts of the country, to teach — at the earliest levels and continuing until graduation — courses focusing on human rights, interpersonal relationships, and cultural diversity.

If we make a sincere, dedicated, and long range investment; if we teach our children, through exposure, to respect one another without regard to their perceived differences and roles; and, perhaps most importantly, if we lead by example, tomorrow's teenagers will surely be a more enlightened group than today's.

Tim L. Bone  
San Francisco

### Bill Beasley deserves an apology

The insulting letter from Jack Lewis [March 19] concerning management of the Gay Pride Celebration compels a response. This letter was very disrespectful of Mr. Bill Beasley, a veteran of the nascent gay rights movement when a brave few put their lives at risk for the freedoms taken for granted today. I had the privilege of working with Bill as a volunteer for the 1996 Pride Celebration. I was very impressed by his negotiation with many disparate factions over many months of planning for this event. Bill worked many long days to prepare the celebration and swiftly resolved problems which arose as it was being staged when participants did not show up or were not able to perform as scheduled. Working behind the scenes I could appreciate how management of the celebration is much more than having a comic to "emcee the event" as Lewis suggested. He owes Bill a big apology. If Lewis really cares so much about the Celebration, he should volunteer himself instead of being so critical of others.

Bill Stremmel  
Alameda, CA

Send signed, original, short letters to 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco CA 94103. No faxed or e-mailed letters, please.



## Fast track to success



**P**opular gay Supervisor Tom Ammiano proudly shows off his fast pass to an overflow crowd at Art and Sherry Agnos' home in West Portal March 31. The occasion was the kickoff of Ammiano's re-election campaign to the SF Board of Supervisors. Ammiano is considered a likely contender for board president come November. Local luminaries attending the bash included Supes Sue Bierman and Leland Yee, Mayor Willie Brown, Doris Ward and various community, labor and tenant activists.

## The April PolitiCalendar

### A B.A.R. clip 'n' save feature

**M**eetings of interest to the community throughout April, listed in order of each group's first event this month:

#### HIV Prevention Planning Council

April 9, 23; 3-6 p.m.  
Unitarian Church,  
1187 Franklin at Geary  
For committee meetings,  
call (415) 554-9000

#### Queer Latino Political Action Committee (QL PAC)

April 9; 6:30 p.m.  
Women's Building  
3543 18th Street  
(Meets 2nd Thursday)  
Info: (415) 648-3702

**Oakland HIV Health Services Planning Council**  
(Alameda, Contra Costa counties)  
PWA Committee  
April 10; 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
(Meets 2nd Friday)  
Location/info: (510) 741-1856

**Board of Supervisors**  
April 13, 20, 27; 2 p.m.  
City Hall, 4th floor  
401 Van Ness Avenue,  
(Meets every Monday)  
For committee meetings  
call (415) 554-5184  
**Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club**  
April 13; 7-9 p.m.  
Piaf's  
1686 Market Street

(Meets 2nd Monday)  
Info: (415) 522-3809

#### Out on the Island

April 13; 7 p.m.  
City of Alameda's gay  
community action group  
(Meets 2nd Monday)  
Location/info: (510) 337-1300

#### ACT UP/Golden Gate

April 14, 21, 28; 7:30 p.m.  
592 Castro Street  
(Meets every Tuesday)  
Info: (415) 252-9200

#### SF Youth Commission

April 16; 5-7 p.m.  
City Hall, Room 207  
401 Van Ness Avenue  
(Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday)  
Info: (415) 554-6446

#### Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action

April 16; 7 p.m.  
507-B Divisadero  
(Meets 3rd Thursday)  
Info: (415) 273-1108

#### Ambiente Latino

**Democratic Club**  
April 18; 4 p.m.  
(Meets 2nd Saturday)  
Location/info: (415) 239-2221

#### Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council

April 20, 27; 4:30 p.m.  
SF AIDS Office  
25 Van Ness Avenue, 3rd Floor  
For committee meetings,  
call (415) 554-9136

#### Harvey Milk Democratic Club

April 16; 7-9 p.m.  
Cannabis Cultivators Club  
1444 Market Street  
Info: (415) 751-5364

#### L/G/B/T Pride

**Celebration Committee**  
April 20; 7:30 p.m.  
1390 Market Street,  
Suite 1225  
Fox Plaza office building  
Info: (415) 864-3733

#### SF Health Commission

April 21; 3 p.m.  
SF Department  
of Public Health  
101 Grove Street, Room 300  
(Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday)  
Info: (415) 554-2666

#### LGBT Advisory Committee

**SF Human Rights Commission**  
April 21; 5:30 p.m.  
25 Van Ness Avenue  
(Meets 3rd Tuesday)  
Info: (415) 252-2500

#### Call for information about these April meetings:

**Log Cabin Republican Club**  
(415) 522-2944~

**CUSP: Community United for Sexual Privacy**  
(415) 627-4019

**Boy + Boy (youth only)**  
(415) 908-6721  
or e-mail SQUIRMed@aol.com

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# Yawn, Wisconsin

by Beth Elliott

What a Friend We Have in Cheeshead, or Au Gratin to the Core Dept.: It took an exciting pennant race to clinch it, but the friends who made up my old Giants season ticket consortium are finally sufficiently over the 1994 strike and the insults to the game perpetrated by both labor and management. We've taken the plunge for a ticket plan again, going for a weekend plan in the upper boxes instead of the whole season 20 rows back of the home dugout, which reduces both the commitment and the cost.

As a venue for the ritual dividing up of the tickets, we chose the Oakland Coliseum and the last spring training game between the

Giants and A's. It's still a very pleasant place to take in a ball game, if one can ignore the great wall of football seating that haunts Oakland taxpayers like myself to this day. We had a pretty decent day for a game, too-clear and sunny, if breezy. Unfortunately, I could not ignore the stereotypes I have of A's baseball and its fans. If the American League does indeed lose the designated hitter after next season, these may abate somewhat. Still, I find it difficult to get into the game at the Coliseum, a problem I don't have at Candlestick.

For one thing, the Coliseum

scoreboard doesn't display where each team is in the batting order. The field is much farther from the stands. And A's fans just aren't as knowledgeable about the game as Candlestick fans.

You can be freezing at a night game against Montreal, but you'll be in good company that isn't afraid to cheer an opposing player's excellence and not just the home nine. The Stick will never be a

Wrigley Field or Fenway Park, but it's

the genuine article.

On this day at the Coliseum, though, I watched an A's batter take a vicious cut at a curveball and miss wildly ... only to hear an A's fan shout, "Oh, come on, Blue!" Hello? That's for a badly called strike; there's no judgment in a swing and a miss. I kept my rude comment to my own little group, but noted that my attempt to hold my stereotypes in check had been frustrated.

Perhaps it's a matter of stereotypes having just run up a big inning, thanks to the heavy hitting of a football player, Reggie White of the Green Bay Packers. You know the story: asked to say a few words to the Wisconsin state legislature, he launched into an attack on the ills of society, which he laid at the feet of "sinners" ... one very familiar purported group of sinners in particular. In the process of attempting to praise diversity in society, he



Jerry Business

launched into a most embarrassing recital of ethnic stereotypes as the lawmakers silently cringed.

White's inane prattle evoked a couple of stereotypes of its own: the stereotype of the dumb no-neck football player, and the stereotype of the repressed, humorless evangelist. I, for one, fail to see the connection between drive-by shootings, carjackings, rape, and muggings and people failing to be alarmed by girls kissing girls who want girls to kiss them. How freakin' superstitious can one get?

One of the superstitions at work here is that there is nothing to homosexuality but a set of sexual practices-sexual practices in which, by the way, quite a large number of faithfully married couples also engage ... and to which heterosexual sitcom characters regularly allude without drawing parental warnings. Many of the people who perpetuate this particular stereotype very likely know bloody well how ridiculous this reduction is. They promote it be-

cause it's useful. For one thing, the stereotype helps them avoid the shame of acknowledging that quite a number of the people they'd love to have as neighbors are boy-boy or girl-girl couples (or those who'd like to be in same).

This is why clueless heterosexuals freak out thinking about gay and lesbian teachers, gay Boy Scouts, etc.: these are stereotype busters. How's a preacher supposed to milk the frightened for big profits if the scapegoats are cute and cuddly? Why, the sheep might look up from the shearing and realize they're being scammed.

"The average person figures out it matters less which gender toasts their neighbor's muffins than it does whether that neighbor is a true neighbor (see, e.g., Luke 10:29-37 ... right, Brother Jay?), the professional 'religious' fearmongers are toast.

And in that spirit, I'd like to encourage B.A.R. readers to resist

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## Dignity/San Francisco 25 Years Service to the Community Witness to the Church

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Holy Week and the Triduum

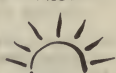
April 5: Palm Sunday	5:30 p.m.
Procession and Mass	
April 9: Holy Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Mass of the Last Supper	
April 10: Good Friday	2:00 p.m.
Celebration of the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ	
April 11: Holy Saturday	8:30 p.m.
Easter Vigil	
April 12: Easter Sunday	5:30 p.m.
Solemn Easter Vespers	

DIGNITY is an inclusive community of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Roman Catholics, our families and friends. All services are held at 1329 Seventh Avenue in San Francisco near the N-Judah Muni line.

*Worthy are you, O Christ, to take the scroll and break the seals, for you were slain and your blood purchased for God every tribe, language, people and nation.*

REVELATION

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### Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 1998  
Commemoration of the Last Supper - 7 P.M.

Good Friday, April 10, 1998  
Reading of the Passion with Hymns - 12 Noon

Queer Passion Perspectives

Lesbian & Gay Meditations on the Seven Last Words of Christ - 7 P.M.

Holy Saturday, April 11, 1998

Lighting Our Rainbow Cross

at Mt. Davidson 7 P.M.

Easter Sunday

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Festival Eucharist with Choir & Brass 9 & 11 A.M.

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## MEDIA ALERT

## 'KGAY' is A-OK

by Don Romesburg,  
GLAAD/SF media resource  
center manager

On April 1, San Francisco's KITS/Live 105.3 made a day-long "switch" to "KGAY," an "all gay, all day" format. From 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., local gay and lesbian entertainers replaced the station's regular personalities. The format changed from modern rock to anything that could be considered "gay," from "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" to all of Donna Summer's hits to Jill Sobule's "I Kissed a Girl." The news highlighted "gay" stories like Reggie White's anti-gay comments and San Francisco's newly appointed openly gay supervisor, Mark Leno. The station played some fake "gay" advertisements, but most ads and sponsors were KITS's regular local and national advertisers. In between faux station identification spots ("We're here, we're queer, we're in your ear!"), they played several public service announcements regarding gay youth, safe sex, and HIV/AIDS support and counseling. A mock statement from the station manager said, "We recently conducted a format survey, and you told us, 'Hey, San Francisco is a unique city — we need a station that reflects the people — a gay radio station.' So here it is! We told the people at CBS [the station's affiliate] that this was the way to go." According to KITS Program Director Richard Sands, listener response was "overwhelming," with 85-90 percent of the hundreds of calls and e-mails being positive.



"We've never had this much reaction to anything we've ever done," Sands said.

Currently on Sunday evenings, KITS airs *Hibernia Beach*, a talk show focusing on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues. After the stunning reaction to "KGAY," station managers are considering working "KGAY" into their regular schedule, perhaps on a monthly basis. "Response is so huge we do want to do something to honor everybody's praise," said Sands.

While KITS's use of "KGAY" as an April Fools Day gag walked a fine line between poking fun and being offensive, it always treated lesbians and gay men with whimsical respect.

Let KITS/Live 105.3 know that we get the joke and encourage them to make more radio play "KGAY."

Contact: Richard Sands, Program Director, KITS/Live 105.3, 730 Harrison St., Ste. 300, San Francisco, CA 94107.

#### Outstanding Contra Costa Times series examines gay youth in suburbia

A "Gay in Suburbia" series on March 29 in the *Contra Costa Times* examined myriad issues facing lesbian and gay young people. One article, "Prejudice, fear dictate coming-out process," serves as an overview, addressing political, social and familial realities for young people struggling to be open and honest about their sexual orientations. As *Times* Staff Writer Benoit Denizet-Lewis, who penned the entire series, notes, "Many gay teenagers in East Bay

suburbs feel that they're in a no-win situation: Come out and open themselves to possible harassment, rejection and isolation from parents and friends. Stay closeted, and live a life that isn't truly theirs." Another article profiles Lisa, 19, and Jennifer, 18, two girls in love and open about it attending California High School in San Ramon.

The next article, "Athlete has an 'image' to protect," shows the flip-side, where Sam, a 16-year-old varsity baseball player who has always known he is gay, has carefully constructed a lie so no one will know his sexual orientation. "Like countless high school, college and professional athletes before him, Sam has made the calculated decision to keep his sexuality to himself," Denizet-Lewis writes.

Other articles discuss young gay men failing to regularly practice safer sex, the role of the Internet for isolated teens, and the growing number of high schools with gay-straight alliances.

Please applaud the *Contra Costa Times* for a phenomenal series.

Contact: Sandra Keyes, managing editor, *Contra Costa Times*, P.O. Box 5088, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. ▼

GLAAD promotes fair, accurate, and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. Contact GLAAD by e-mail at [glad@glad.org](mailto:glad@glad.org) or by phone at (415) 861-2244. Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's Toll-Free AlertLine! 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334).

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- Flush radiator & replace coolant
- Inspect hydraulic brake system
- Replace brake fluid
- Adjust parking brake
- Inspect brake lining
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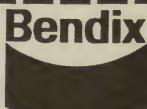
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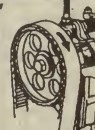
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# Sexual rope-a-dope

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

The scene is sickeningly familiar: the young man's body is found hanging by its neck from a rafter. There are no signs of forcible entry or of a struggle. Near the corpse a note makes clear that the deed was his own doing. Another tragic youth suicide, perhaps by a young man in conflict about his homosexuality? Well, not exactly.

Closer inspection of the scene reveals some unusual details. The body is undressed from the waist down. The victim had ejaculated before he died. The room is littered with pornographic magazines, some showing scenes of bondage or torture. The body is tied not just around the neck but around the ankles and the genitals too. And the rafter shows signs of wear, as if this was not the first but the twentieth time the young man had strung himself up. Not to kill himself, but to get the ultimate sexual charge. It's a case of lethal autoerotic asphyxia.

According to studies by Stephen Hucker and Ray Blanchard, of the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry in Toronto, Canada, lethal autoerotic asphyxia is not at all rare. They found records of 118 such deaths in the Canadian provinces of Alberta and Ontario over a thirteen-year period. Yet the sexual practices that lead to such deaths are so private that they rarely come to the attention of health professionals.

One aspect of autoerotic asphyxia is purely physiological. Depriving the cerebral cortex of oxy-



gen during masturbation can increase the level of sexual arousal and the intensity of orgasm. Nitrite inhalers ("poppers") probably work in the same way: by opening blood vessels all over the body, they drain blood away from the cerebral cortex, leaving it in a semi-functional state. This frees the lower centers of the brain, where sexual feelings are based, from the inhibition normally exerted by the cortex. Yet while the health risks associate with use of

"poppers" are probably only moderate, self-asphyxiation is exceptionally dangerous, because the person may lose consciousness before he unties the rope or belt that is strangulating him. If ever there was occasion to say "don't try this at home," this is it!

On another level, however, autoerotic asphyxia has complex psychological roots. It's clear that many of the victims found the very notion of bondage sexually arousing, quite aside from the physiological effects on the brain. They often are found with other parts of their bodies tied, and not just their necks. And there are often S&M magazines near the body. The victims were expressing classic bondage fetishism.

For some of the victims it is not merely bondage, but ideas of execution or suicide that seem to provide the sexual thrill. The room may be deliberately set up as a death scene, making the distinction between accident and suicide highly ambiguous. One young man left a note that read, in part: "When you find my body hanging...with a tight noose around my neck, do not look for a murderer. I have executed myself. I say execute rather than suicide because I didn't really intend to hang unto death." Another man was found in woman's clothes, surrounded by writings and pictures related to judicial execution. One of these documents said "The law of the land for any man dressed as a woman and found guilty is that he be hanged."

The majority of the men who die by autoerotic asphyxia are heterosexual. But quite a few of these are erotically aroused by wearing women's clothes, a trait that psychiatrists call transvestic fetishism. (This is quite different from gay men doing drag.) Of the cases studied by Hucker and Blanchard, many were wearing women's clothes or make-up, or had shaved legs. Thus these men exhibited at least two fetichisms simultaneously. This fits with the well-documented observation that men who show one fetishism commonly show one or more others.

Autoerotic asphyxia, whether lethal or not, is almost entirely a male practice. Of the 118 cases in the Canadian study, only one was a woman. Fetishism in general is predominantly a male trait.

Gays and lesbians tend to be relatively accepting of unorthodox sexual practices. Most of us would probably be concerned by the obvious risks of autoerotic asphyxia, more than by any moral considerations or by the notion that some mental disorder is at work. If the physiological high associated with asphyxia were the whole story, one could simply suggest that the devotees of this kind of sex switch from self-strangulation to the use of poppers, a far safer alternative. But this physiological effect is evidently only a part of the story. The devotees of autoerotic asphyxia become enmeshed in a sexual fantasy world that become ever more complex and dangerous as they grow older. Here's one corner of sexual diversity where the only reasonable response is: Get help! ▼

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the "gay brain." He is the author of *The Sexual Brain and City of Friends* (with Elisabeth Jonas). He may be reached at [SLeVay@aol.com](mailto:SLeVay@aol.com).

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Holy Week  
Services

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shared meal recalling the Last Supper  
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\* Easter Saturday, Prayer Vigil 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM  
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\* Good Friday, Stations of the Cross 12:15 PM  
Liturgy of Good Friday 7:30 PM  
\* Saturday, Easter Vigil 9:00 PM  
\* Easter Sunday, Festival Choral Eucharist 11:00 AM  
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**Richmond District****Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church**

1329 Seventh Avenue, SF 415.664-2543  
The Reverend Jeffrey Gaines  
\* Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service of the Lord's Supper 6:30 PM  
\* Good Friday Taizé & Tenebrae (Service of Darkness) 7:30 PM  
\* Easter Celebration with Brass, Choir & Holy Communion 10:30 AM  
\* Easter Pot-Luck Luncheon following worship  
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\* Good Friday Service 12:00 NOON & 7:30 PM  
\* Easter Vigil at First United Lutheran Church 9:00 PM  
6555 Geary Blvd. (at 30<sup>th</sup> Ave.)  
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<http://members.aol.com/bethanyum2/homepage.html>  
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\* Good Friday Service of Lessons and Candles 7:00 PM  
\* Easter services 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM  
\* Community Mini-Brunch 12:15 PM  
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**Holy Innocents Episcopal Church - Noe Valley**

455 Fair Oaks Street, SF 415.824-5142  
(Between Dolores & Guerrero, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Sts.)  
\* Sunday Worship 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM, w/Sunday School, 11:00 AM  
\* Easter Day  
\* Contemporary Eucharist 8:00 AM  
\* Family Eucharist, Children's Easter Egg Hunt follows 9:00 AM  
\* Choral Eucharist 11:00 AM

**Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church U.S.A.**

1021 Sanchez, SF 415.282-7798  
(Between 23<sup>rd</sup> & Elizabeth Sts.)  
Pastor: Joan Huff  
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\* Good Friday Service 12:00 NOON & 7:00 PM  
\* Saturday Easter Eve Service 7:00 PM  
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Service of the Word w/ Taizé Chant 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
\* Saturday Great Vigil of Easter 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM  
\* Easter Sunday Resurrection Service 10:00 AM

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## Shanti needs gay volunteers

by Cynthia Laird

Most volunteers will tell you that they are rewarded many times over when they provide much-needed services to people living with HIV/AIDS (PWA). That's true of Kristine Johnson, volunteer coordinator at Shanti, who gave her time to the agency for four years before taking her current paid position. While there have been changes in the epidemic that have resulted in many people living longer, the number of gay volunteers at Shanti has declined, and Johnson hopes she can reverse that trend.

Services that Shanti provides are open to anyone who is HIV-positive, but the majority of clients at the AIDS service organization (ASO) are gay men, Johnson said. That shouldn't be surprising, as it mirrors the demographic data of San Francisco.

"A lot of our gay clients will request a gay volunteer, and lots of times we don't have them," Johnson told the B.A.R.

There are several reasons why Shanti doesn't have as many gay volunteers as it did, Johnson said. Years ago, many of Shanti's volunteers donated their time because a lot of their friends had AIDS, or they were HIV-positive them-



Kristine Johnson (right) with Shanti volunteer Tom Ferrara.

selves. The advent of protease inhibitors has hit Shanti like other agencies: people think the epidemic is over, although it is not.

"Also, people have burnout, or what we call 'compassion fatigue,'" said Johnson.

She said Shanti does ask that volunteers make a six-month commitment of four to six hours a week, and added most volunteers stay beyond that time.

Some common types of work done by volunteers include light housework, assisting with laundry, or helping clients organize their paperwork. Not all the tasks, however, are work; lots of times a client simply wants someone to have coffee with, go see a movie with, or just listen.

"A very large part of it is being an active listener," said Johnson. In many cases, Shanti volunteers help clients remain independent and avoid institutional care.

Shanti invented the model for volunteers working with PWAs years ago; it has trained over 8,000 volunteers who have provided

more than two million hours of practical assistance and emotional support to PWAs. Each person who signs up undergoes a thorough 45-hour training session, and staff continue to provide support to volunteers after the initial two-weekend training. Last year the agency trained 240 volunteers, who provided 19,000 hours of support to 286 PWAs.

Shanti recognizes its volunteers with a special annual event; this year's volunteer appreciation benefit is scheduled for Saturday, May 30.

Johnson is glad she started out as a volunteer, and told the B.A.R. the experience has stayed with her. "I got back tenfold what I gave," she said, "and found it very rich and humbling."

The next training session begins Friday, April 17. Another one will start June 5. ▼

For more information about becoming a Shanti volunteer, call Johnson at (415) 487-4753.

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## Shanti extends hours

Shanti Executive Director Robert Rybicki has announced that in order to better serve clients, the agency has begun evening hours and is open each Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Rybicki said additional evening hours may be offered if there is a need for them. Clients who cannot get to the Shanti office during normal business hours now have an alternative, he added.

For information on Shanti's services, call (415) 864-2273. The office is located at 1546 Market Street, near Van Ness Avenue, in San Francisco. ▼

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# Scott Shafer to host KQED radio show

*Will ask, rather than answer, questions now*

by Cynthia Laird

After several years as a principal in the firm Staton, Hughes, and Shafer, openly gay political consultant Scott Shafer will leave on Monday, April 13 to host KQED-FM's *The California Report*, a weekly program broadcast on more than 20 radio stations throughout the state.

While not a stranger to broadcast journalism — he got his start at a Sacramento station and has hosted KQED weekday morning radio call-in program *Forum* — Shafer has been running political campaigns for the last several years and also serves on the board of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center Project. In both of those capacities, he has been answering reporters' questions and he's looking forward to the change.

"I am very excited to return to journalism full time after a dozen years in government and politics. After years of answering journalists' questions, I look forward to asking a few of my own," said Shafer. "It's an honor to join KQED's staff and build on their reputation for bringing thoughtful, fair, and substantive news reporting to the airwaves."

Shafer replaces David Wright,



Scott Shafer

who will be joining the staff of KRON-TV, according to Jo Anne Wallace, vice president and general manager of KQED-FM. "Scott is a seasoned professional who combines a wealth of experience in communications and government with an excellent understanding of the mission of public broadcasting," said Wallace. "His strong credentials as an interviewer combined with his knowledge of California politics are an ideal fit for hosting *The California Report*."

Shafer told the B.A.R. he hopes to occasionally host the show

from Los Angeles, Sacramento, and other cities. With the current campaigns underway, the rest of the year should prove interesting. "What's happening in California is so important, not only in the nation, but the Pacific Rim," Shafer said.

As host of the program, Shafer will research, write, and produce stories from the studio and in the field. Wallace said Shafer will be working with Sally Eisele, senior producer, and Raul Ramirez, news director, to develop coverage strategies, program topics, story themes, and special projects.

In departing Staton, Hughes, and Shafer, he will leave behind an exciting job and several professional accomplishments. He credited his partners, Cliff Staton and Mary Hughes, who are not gay, with having a long history and commitment to working for qualified gay candidates, several of whom have won office. In 1990, Staton and Hughes ran the campaign of San Francisco Superior Court Judge Donna Hitchens, who was one of the first openly lesbian candidates represented by the firm. Currently, they are managing the campaign of Hitchens's partner, Nancy Davis, who's running for the bench against incumbent Municipal Court Judge

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## Gay skaters

◀ page 1

at our age is not bad! A little boy came up to me and another adult skater, and said, 'I have to give you guys credit, as old as you are, you're looking good.'

And while being openly gay might make him stand out, the gay issue is not terribly important, he says. "I skate because I love to skate. It's not a question, because everything I do is on the gay side, being a hairdresser, a skater. That's just me."

"I think it would be the same whether I was a basketball player or anything. The gay issue doesn't come into that. To me, the point is the expression, the mood I create."

He admits there are conflicts on the ice (albeit none at the moment as grand as the infamous Tonya Harding/Nancy Kerrigan scandal), but Kobayashi takes a communal perspective. "I never say, 'I'm competing against.' I say, 'I'm skating with.' We can only do our best that day. It's really more about skating with everybody. We're all there for the same gold, which is skating."

Gold may come his way in Amsterdam this summer, when he competes at Gay Games V. Following his competition in Oakland, he begins work on a program set to Igor Stravinsky's Firebird Suite.

## Being naughty

Roller-skating as a child in Stayton, Oregon, was Jim Kerber's first taste of skating. His later career as a ballet dancer added to the skills he's using as a figure skater.

"It's been really interesting to

go from ballet to skating," he says. "When we were dancing they forbade us to skate, for fear of injury, so it's like being naughty."

Like Kobayashi, skating came late in life for Kerber. He and his partner Marjic Hempstead have been working together for less than a year, and Kerber only took up the sport four years ago. "I decided I wanted to do all those things I've been doing all my life."

This will be Kerber's third adult nationals. Last year at the U.S. Adult Figure Skating Nationals at Lake Placid, NY, he placed fourth.

"I got a pewter medal. If you shine it a lot it looks like silver," he laughs.

## "We fought to get a category added for same-sex pairs that don't have required elements."

As a 50-year-old skater, Kerber breaks the stereotype of skating being only a teenage sport. "I think freestyle definitely is ruled by kids. But if you look at the leading couples, at the senior and Olympic level they aren't children. It takes a long time to get anywhere in ice dancing."

Along with many required moves, a program also has to have style and flair. "Each dance has an added element to make it more difficult," he says. "This year I've moved up to bronze."

Fortunately, Kerber's job as press agent for the tour of *Cats* allows him to skate several times a week. However, between their two coaches' schedules, and busy rink usage, their workout times are limited. "That's why you compete," he jokes, "so that for once in your life is to have the rink to yourself!"

Between dodging kids at practice, Kerber still keeps his hopes high. "My goal every year is adult nationals. I would like to win a first place some day." Kerber is not, however, going to Gay Games this summer. "If I was a singles skater, I would, but I don't have that many skills in freestyle — and in dance, I thought about finding another male ... but would who would lead?"

If this sounds like a gay joke, it is, but also a very tricky problem when creating a same-sex program, as several men and women have done, but only at Gay Games. Before creating such a piece, skaters commiserate with movie star Ginger Rogers's adage, "If you think Fred Astaire's job was hard, try it backward — in heels!" Add ice, and you've got even more difficulty.

According to skating tradition, "the woman has the hard steps," Kerber says. "The man has to set the pattern. He tends to set the tempo and speed, and he's got the partnering to do. He is leading."

One thing that won't be seen at the Adult Nationals is same-sex pairs. Same-sex partnering actually violates the rules of sanctioned pairs skating, which defines a couple as "a man and a woman. It's right there at the beginning of the rule book," Kerber says. "In other words, don't do this."

Skater Lisa Labrecque, who competed at New York's Gay Games IV, and is a co-chair of Team San Francisco, points out

that same-sex coupling is even a point of contention with Amsterdam. "I understand the predicament that they are in," she says. "They don't have local skaters to fight for this, and they are at the mercy of the Royal Dutch Figure Skating Association. International rules aren't applicable."

The problems, according to Labrecque, are "that same-sex partners tend to not do things that [require] the weight deferential that women and men have" but in Amsterdam, "even the requirements for lowest categories are elements that are typical of mixed pairs. We fought to get a category added for same-sex pairs that don't have required elements." Even so, said Labrecque, she is enthusiastic about Gay Games.

The image of same-sex skaters not only confronts tradition, but pushes new boundaries. One of the most highly covered events of Gay Games IV was that of two male skaters, Trevor Kruse and Darren Singbeil of Toronto, in fatigue shirts and dog tags, their mouths taped shut to honor gays and lesbian in the military. Obviously, many gay skaters are above standards, and bending the rules for artistic freedom is breaking ice, in America and abroad. ▼

The 1998 U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships will take place April 16-19, in Oakland. Tickets are \$30 for an all-event pass, or \$10 per day. For tickets and information, call (510) 268-9000, extension 130. For more information on the St. Moritz Ice Skating Club, call (510) 327-7607.

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In patients receiving androgenic anabolic steroid therapy, 1) peliosis hepatis, a condition in which the liver and sometimes splenic tissue is replaced with blood-filled cysts, has been reported. 2) liver cell tumors are also reported. 3) blood lipid changes that are known to be associated with increased risk of atherosclerosis are seen. See Warnings and Precautions sections of complete prescribing information. **CONTRAINDICATIONS:** 1) known or suspected carcinoma of the prostate or the male breast; 2) carcinoma of the breast in females with hypercalcemia (androgenic anabolic steroids may stimulate osteolytic bone resorption); 3) pregnancy, because of possible masculinization of the fetus. Oxandrin has been shown to cause embryotoxicity, fetotoxicity, infertility, and masculinization of female animal offspring when given in doses 9 times the human dose; 4) nephrosis of nephrotic phase of nephritis; 5) hypercalcemia

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**Eviction**

◀ page 1

City Hall news conference on Monday, "was not only not compassionate, but not good law."

Robert Haaland of the San Francisco Tenants Union concurred. "The judge didn't cite any authority for his decision," he said, "which leads me to believe

**"It's my hope we'll be very clear and very strong in telling the city attorney the city needs to go to the mat and appeal this unjust decision."**

— Tom Ammiano

there is no authority for his decision."

Randy Shaw, executive director and supervising attorney for the Tenderloin Housing Clinic noted, "I can't think of another major case of high public visibility where the judge makes no attempt to cite cases or provide backup or support for their

analysis.

"It shows a result-oriented judiciary."

Shaw implied the decision also reflected the judge's personal political bias as an appointee of Governor Reagan.

Ammiano and a coalition of senior and tenant groups vowed Monday, March 6 to appeal Judge Williamson's ruling that the eviction moratorium constituted a

Even if it's not possible to ban the evictions out right, Haaland said, "there are other legislative remedies to make them difficult."

Ammiano was a key sponsor of the law designed to protect renters with catastrophic illnesses and old-age infirmities from being booted out of their homes during one of the tightest rental markets in the city's history. For those who are elderly, handi-

government "taking" of landlords' private property, in violation of the 5th Amendment.

"We don't believe it's a taking," Haaland stressed.

Haaland stressed that his group is also working with Ammiano to explore alternate ways of achieving protection from owner move-in evictions.

capped, or facing life-threatening illnesses, the prospects of finding new living spaces in midst of a rental crisis not only are daunting, but at times life threatening. Especially in the case of those with disabling HIV, the stress associated with eviction fights and the prospect of relocating can cause precipitous drops in t-cell counts, along with the onset of AIDS-related symptoms.

Increasingly during the housing crunch, as the value of rental units has skyrocketed, landlords have used owner move-ins as a means to skirt rent-control law that restrict evictions and precipitous rent hikes. The loophole allows landlords to evict tenants to move in themselves, but in many cases the landlords have no intention of dwelling long term in the units thus vacated. Instead, they grab the opportunity to boot long-term tenants who pay relatively low rents, so that they can move in new tenants paying premium rates.

The law was designed to protect people like 77-year-old Richmond District resident Barbara Turner, whose landlord brought the suit against the city. At Monday's press conference, Turner said she has lived in the same flat for 38 years. After her building was sold, however, she was given an owner move-in eviction notice the day before last Thanksgiving. She was to get out by December 27. That simply wasn't possible, she told her new landlord; she couldn't move that quickly.

Turner managed to delay until the moratorium was put into effect in January, securing her home. Now, however, she once again finds herself in legal limbo, facing the prospect of finding new quarters in a tight and fiercely competitive rental market.

"The next step," said Ammiano, "is for the Board of Supervisors to meet with the city attorney next Monday and give her direction about what to do. It's my hope we'll be very clear and very strong in telling the city attorney the city needs to go to the mat and appeal this unjust decision." ▼

**Empress José**

◀ page 1

press of the Imperial Court there. Rasher told the B.A.R. on Tuesday, April 7 that "doctors seem to think he's doing well," and that he believes the hospital will discharge Sarria next week.

"He's feeling better," Rasher said, although he added that the experience has been a strain on the septuagenarian.

"I'm sure he's going to be fine," he said, "but I don't think he'll be doing the Nutcracker again." ▼

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Revised, May 1996

**DESCRIPTION**

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Inactive ingredients include cornstarch, lactose, magnesium stearate, and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose.

**CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**

Anabolic steroids are synthetic derivatives of testosterone. Certain clinical effects and adverse reactions demonstrate the androgenic properties of this class of drugs. Complete dissociation of anabolic and androgenic effects has not been achieved. The actions of anabolic steroids are therefore similar to those of male sex hormones with the possibility of causing serious disturbances of growth and sexual development if given to young children. Anabolic steroids suppress the gonadotropic functions of the pituitary and may exert a direct effect upon the testes.

During exogenous administration of anabolic androgens, endogenous testosterone release is inhibited through inhibition of pituitary luteinizing hormone (LH). At large doses, spermatogenesis may be suppressed through feedback inhibition of pituitary follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH).

Anabolic steroids have been reported to increase low-density lipoproteins and decrease high-density lipoproteins. These levels revert to normal on discontinuation of treatment.

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

Oxandrin is indicated as adjunctive therapy to promote weight gain after weight loss following extensive surgery, chronic infections, or severe trauma, and in some patients who without definite pathophysiologic reasons fail to gain or to maintain normal weight. Oxandrin is also indicated as adjunctive therapy to promote weight gain in patients with protein catabolism associated with prolonged administration of corticosteroids, and for the relief of the bone pain frequently accompanying osteoporosis (See **DOSEAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

**DRUG USAGE AND DEPENDENCE**

Oxandrolone is classified as a controlled substance under the Anabolic Steroids Control Act of 1990 and has been assigned to Schedule III (non-narcotic).

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**

1. Known or suspected carcinoma of the prostate or the male breast.
2. Carcinoma of the breast in females with hypercalcaemia (androgenic anabolic steroids may stimulate osteolytic bone resorption).
3. Pregnancy, because of possible masculinization of the fetus. Oxandrin has been shown to cause embryotoxicity, fetotoxicity, infertility, and masculinization of female animal offspring when given in doses 9 times the human dose.
4. Nephrosis, the nephrotic phase of nephritis.
5. Hypercalcaemia.

**WARNINGS**

**PELIOUS HEPATIS, A CONDITION IN WHICH LIVER AND SOMETIMES SPLEEN TISSUE IS REPLACED WITH BLOOD-FILLED CYSTS, HAS BEEN REPORTED IN PATIENTS RECEIVING ANDROGENIC ANABOLIC STEROID THERAPY. THESE CYSTS ARE SOMETIMES PRESENT WITH MINIMAL HEPATIC DYSFUNCTION, BUT AT OTHER TIMES THEY HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH LIVER FAILURE. THEY ARE OFTEN NOT RECOGNIZED UNTIL LIFE-THREATENING LIVER FAILURE OR INTRA-ABDOMINAL HEMORRHAGE DEVELOPS. WITHDRAWAL OF DRUG USUALLY RESULTS IN COMPLETE DISAPPEARANCE OF LESIONS.**

**LIVER CELL TUMORS ARE ALSO REPORTED MOST OFTEN THESE TUMORS ARE BENIGN AND ANDROGEN-DEPENDENT, BUT ATL MALIGNANT TUMORS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. WITHDRAWAL OF DRUG OFTEN RESULTS IN REGRESSION OR CESSATION OF PROGRESSION OF THE TUMOR. HOWEVER, HEPATIC TUMORS ASSOCIATED WITH ANDROGENIC ANABOLIC STEROIDS ARE MUCH MORE VASCULAR THAN OTHER HEPATIC TUMORS AND MAY BE SILENT UNTIL LIFE-THREATENING INTRA-ABDOMINAL HEMORRHAGE DEVELOPS. BLOOD LIPID CHANGES THAT ARE KNOWN TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED RISK OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS ARE SEEN IN PATIENTS TREATED WITH ANDROGENS OR ANABOLIC STEROIDS. THESE CHANGES INCLUDE DECREASED HIGH-DENSITY LIPOPROTEINS AND SOMEWHAT INCREASED LOW-DENSITY LIPOPROTEINS. THE CHANGES MAY BE VERY MARKED AND COULD HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON THE RISK OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS AND CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE.**

Cholestatic hepatitis and jaundice may occur with 17-alpha-alkylated androgens at a relatively low dose. If cholestatic hepatitis with jaundice appears or if liver function tests become abnormal, oxandrolone should be discontinued and the etiology should be determined. Drug-induced jaundice is reversible when the medication is discontinued.

In patients with breast cancer, anabolic steroid therapy may cause hypercalcaemia by stimulating osteolysis. Oxandrolone therapy should be discontinued if hypercalcaemia occurs. Edema with or without congestive heart failure may be a serious complication in patients with preexisting cardiac, renal, or hepatic disease. Concomitant administration of adrenal cortical steroid or ACTH may increase the edema.

In children, androgen therapy may accelerate bone maturation without producing compensatory gain in linear growth. This adverse effect results in compromised adult height. The younger the child, the greater the risk of compromising final mature height. The effect on bone maturation should be monitored by assessing bone age of the left wrist and hand every 6 months (See **PRECAUTIONS: Laboratory tests**).

Geriatric patients treated with androgenic anabolic steroids may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hypertrophy and prostatic carcinoma.

**ANABOLIC STEROIDS HAVE NOT BEEN SHOWN TO ENHANCE ATHLETIC ABILITY.**

**PRECAUTIONS**

**General:**

Women should be observed for signs of virilization (deepening of the voice, hirsutism, acne, clitoromegaly). Discontinuation of drug therapy at the time of evidence of mild virilism is necessary to prevent irreversible virilization. Some virilizing changes in women are irreversible after prompt discontinuation of therapy and are not prevented by concomitant use of estrogens. Menstrual irregularities may also occur.

Anabolic steroids may cause suppression of clotting factors II, V, VII, and X, and an increase in prothrombin time.

**Information for patients:**

The physician should instruct patients to report any of the following side effects (See **WARNINGS**):

**Males:** Too frequent or persistent erections of the penis, appearance or aggravation of acne.

**Females:** Hoarseness, acne, changes in menstrual periods, or more facial hair.

**All patients:** Nausea, vomiting, changes in skin color, or ankle swelling.

**Laboratory tests:**

Women with disseminated breast carcinoma should have frequent determination of urine and serum calcium levels during the course of therapy (See **WARNINGS**).

Because of the hepatotoxicity associated with the use of 17-alpha-alkylated androgens, liver function tests should be obtained periodically.

Periodic (every 6 months) x-ray examinations of bone age should be made during treatment of children to determine the rate of bone maturation and the effects of androgen therapy on the epiphyseal centers.

Sex lipids and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol determinations should be done periodically as androgenic anabolic steroids have been reported to increase low-density lipoproteins. Serum cholesterol levels may increase during therapy. Therefore, caution is required when administering these agents to patients with a history of myocardial infarction or coronary artery disease. Serial determinations of serum cholesterol should be made and therapy adjusted accordingly.

Hemoglobin and hematocrit should be checked periodically for polycythemia in patients who are receiving high doses of anabolic steroids.

**Drug interactions**

**Anticoagulants:**

Anabolic steroids may increase sensitivity to oral anticoagulants. Dose of the anticoagulant may have to be decreased in order to maintain desired prothrombin time. Patients receiving oral anticoagulant therapy require close monitoring, especially when anabolic steroids are started or stopped.

**Oral hypoglycemic agents:** Oxandrolone may inhibit the metabolism of oral hypoglycemic agents.

**Adrenal steroids or ACTH:**

In patients with edema, concomitant administration with adrenal cortical steroids or ACTH may increase the edema.

**Drug/Laboratory test interactions:**

Anabolic steroids may decrease levels of thyroxine-binding globulin, resulting in decreased total  $T_4$  serum levels and increased resin uptake of  $T_4$  and  $T_3$ . Free thyroid hormone levels remain unchanged. In addition, a decrease in PBI and radioactive iodine uptake may occur.

**Carcinogenesis, mutagenesis, impairment of fertility**

**Animal data:**

Anabolic steroids have not been tested in laboratory animals for carcinogenic or mutagenic effects. In 2-year chronic oral rat studies, a dose-related reduction of spermatogenesis and decreased organ weights (testes, prostate, seminal vesicles, ovaries, uterus, adrenals, and pituitary) were shown.

**Human data:**

Liver cell tumors have been reported in patients receiving long-term therapy with androgenic anabolic steroids in high doses (See **WARNINGS**). Withdrawal of the drugs did not lead to regression of the tumors in all cases.

Geriatric patients treated with androgenic anabolic steroids may be at an increased risk for the development of prostatic hypertrophy and prostatic carcinoma.

**Pregnancy:** Teratogenic effects — Pregnancy Category X (See **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).

**Nursing mothers:**

It is not known whether anabolic steroids are excreted in human milk. Because of the potential of serious adverse reactions in nursing infants from oxandrolone, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

**Pediatric use:**

Anabolic agents may accelerate epiphyseal maturation more rapidly than linear growth in children and the effect may continue for 6 months after the drug has been stopped. Therefore, therapy should be monitored by x-ray studies at 6-month intervals in order to avoid the risk of compromising adult height. Androgenic anabolic steroid therapy should be used very cautiously in children and only by specialists who are aware of the effects on bone maturation (See **WARNINGS**).

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

The following adverse reactions have been associated with use of anabolic steroids:

**Hepatic:** Cholestatic jaundice with, rarely, hepatic necrosis and death. Hepatocellular neoplasms and peliosis hepatitis with long-term therapy (See **WARNINGS**). Reversible changes in liver function tests also occur including increased bromsulphthalein (BSP) retention, and increases in serum bilirubin, aspartate aminotransferase (AST, SGOT) and alkaline phosphatase.

**In males:**

**Prepubertal:** Phallic enlargement and increased frequency or persistence of erections.

**Postpubertal:** Inhibition of testicular function, testicular atrophy and oligospermia, impotence, chronic priapism, epididymitis, and bladder irritability.

**In females:**

**Clitoral enlargement, menstrual irregularities.**

**CNS:** Habituation, excitation, insomnia, depression, and changes in libido.

**Hematologic:** Bleeding in patients on concomitant anticoagulant therapy.

**Breast:** Gynecomastia

**Larynx:** Deepening of the voice in females.

**Hair:** Hirsutism and male pattern baldness in females.

**Skin:** Acne (especially in females and prepubertal males).

**Skeletal:** Premature closure of epiphyses in children (See **PRECAUTIONS: Pediatric use**).

**Fluid and electrolytes:** Edema, retention of serum electrolytes (sodium chloride, potassium, phosphate, calcium).

**Metabolic/Endocrine:** Decreased glucose tolerance (See **PRECAUTIONS: Laboratory tests**), increased creatinine excretion, increased serum levels of creatine phosphokinase (CPK).

**Masculinization of the fetus:** Inhibition of gonadotropin secretion.

**OVERDOSAGE**

No symptoms or signs associated with overdosage have been reported. It is possible that sodium and water retention may occur.

The oral LD<sub>50</sub> of oxandrolone in mice and dogs is greater than 5,000 mg/kg. No specific antidote is known, but gastric lavage may be used.

**DOSEAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Therapy with anabolic steroids is adjunctive to and not a replacement for conventional therapy. The duration of therapy with Oxandrin (oxandrolone) will depend on the response of the patient and the possible appearance of adverse reactions. Therapy should be intermittent.

**Adults:** The usual adult dosage of Oxandrin is one 2.5-mg tablet 2 to 4 times daily. However, the response of individuals to anabolic steroids varies, and a daily dosage of as little as 2.5 mg or as much as 20 mg may be required to achieve the desired response. A course of therapy of 2 to 4 weeks is usually adequate. This may be repeated intermittently as indicated.

**Children:** For children the total daily dosage of Oxandrin is  $\leq 0.1$  mg per kilogram body weight or  $\leq 0.045$  mg per pound of body weight. This may be repeated intermittently as indicated.

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# Castro Street Fair to proceed with caution

by Mark Mardon

It is looking rosy for the 1998 Castro Street Fair. The event, which in recent months has been the subject of much community discussion and debate, will take place just as it has each of the past 25 years. This time around, however, the fair's organizers will be paying extra-special attention to meeting community concerns.

"They've certainly done huge amounts to become accountable to the neighborhood," said Patrick Batt, president of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro

(MUMC). "I didn't want to lose those gains because of a disenfranchised board member."

Batt was referring to Edward Goehring, a former member of the fair's board of directors, who in January began waging a highly visible campaign to reform the fair's management and financial practices. In particular, Goehring had insisted more of the fair's earnings be returned to the gay community.

In Batt's view, the fair's directors are doing a fine job. "They are allowing nonprofits to collect at the gate. And the board will give a \$5,000 grant back to community."

Even Goehring expressed satisfaction with the way the fair board has handled issues in recent weeks. "I think a lot of progress was made," he said. "What I hoped for at best was that the city would hear more of the gay community's concerns." He felt he helped make that happen.

To receive its street-use permit from the city, fair directors agreed to continue working with Castro community groups in addressing such concerns as noise levels, traffic congestion, and security. Moreover, according to Batt, local queer bartenders will be invited to staff beer booths at the event. ▼

## He wants his sex

United Press International

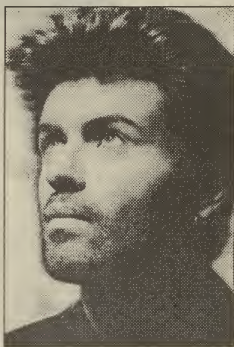
Police say pop singer George Michael has been released on \$500 bail after being arrested for engaging in a lewd act in the restroom of a Beverly Hills park.

Police Lieutenant Edward Kreins says Michael was participating alone in the lewd act Tuesday afternoon, but was aware he was being watched by men who were actually undercover officers.

The officers had been monitoring Will Rogers Park because of complaints by residents about activities there.

Michael gave officers his real name, Georgios Kyriacos Panayiotou.

He gained fame in the 1980s as half of the pop duo "Wham!," which had the hits "Young Guns (Go For It)," "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go," and "Careless Whisper." Michael went on to a solo career after he and singing partner, Andrew Ridgeley, split in 1986. ▼



Mr. Panayiotou

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# 'Don't Ask' challenge moves forward

by Bob Roehr

The issue of gays in the military was again before the courts on Thursday, April 2. The case of *Able v. U.S.A.* is the best remaining challenge to the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy, which all but bans openly gay and lesbian people from serving in the military. The three-member panel of the Second Circuit that heard the arguments is possibly the last stop before an anticipated appearance before the U.S. Supreme Court, probably next year.

The *Able* case was initiated in 1994 by the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). It has six active duty and reserve servicemembers as plaintiffs. The route has been long and tortuous.

It won at the trial court level when Judge Eugene Nickerson declared that DADT violates the free speech rights of gay servicemembers. But on appeal the Second Circuit sent it back to Nickerson, directing him to decide if the policy violates equal protection under the United States Constitution.

"The Constitution does not grant the military special license to act on prejudices or cater to them," Nickerson wrote last July in his second opinion on this case. He dismissed the government's argument that the ban was necessary to preserve "unit cohesion," calling the policy "a euphemism



Lambda's Beatrice Dohrn (left) with ACLU's Matt Coles: "We are arguing that the Constitution should still apply."

for catering to the prejudices of heterosexuals ... It is hard to imagine why the mere holding of hands off base and in private is dangerous to the mission of the armed forces if done by a homosexual but not if done by a heterosexual."

## A Constitutional question

Questioning was spirited on April 2, with presiding Judge John M. Walker taking the lead. He is a cousin of former President George Bush. "Everything seems to boil down to three things," he

said — deference to the military, the level of scrutiny in examining potential discrimination, and the nature of the government's justification for such action.

John Hoyle argued for the Justice Department that the military was unique; that after careful consideration Congress rationally decided that there were sufficient concerns for the "privacy" of heterosexuals in the military and for "sexual tension" that it would be detrimental to "unit cohesion."

He said that allowing homosexuals to serve openly would be

like putting men and women together in the service: "you can expect sexual conduct to occur." Hoyle did not explain how the Uniform Code of Military Justice is deemed adequate to restrain these tensions between men and women but not between people of the same gender. And the Pentagon has conceded in court that gays and lesbians are no more likely to misbehave than their straight counterparts.

Judge Pierre N. Leval asked for an explanation of "unit cohesion," what is it made up of? "It is very hard to isolate them all out," replied Hoyle, basically reciting the privacy and sexual tension arguments.

"Suppose we deal with the problem by treating everybody alike?" asked Judge Wilfred Feinberg. "Congress came to a different conclusion," said Hoyle. We "do not consider homosexuals predators," he said. "But one is inclined to act on their sexuality. The military wants to prohibit people from serving who are

going to continuously engage in homosexual acts."

Lambda's Beatrice Dohrn, arguing for the *Able* plaintiffs, said that DADT is nothing more than pandering to the presumed lowest instincts of heterosexuals. When you strip away all of the rhetoric "it becomes clear that there is nothing else left but ... [the fact that] a person is made uncomfortable" by the known presence of homosexuals.

She reminded the court that "privacy concerns are the same ones raised about integration of the military" nearly 50 years ago.

The judges twice encouraged Lambda that perhaps a heightened level of scrutiny was required in examining the issue. "But you're not biting," said Walker. "You are asking this court to substitute its for the judgment of the military."

Dohrn disagreed. Later outside, speaking with the press, she expressed frustration when she said, "We are arguing that the Constitution should still apply."

The ACLU's Matt Coles added, "There is a lot of homophobia in the country but that isn't the only negative feeling in this country. There are a lot of things that make a lot of people uncomfortable with each other. What the military has effectively said is, we will deal with all of them, but we are not going to deal with this one. They haven't said they can't deal with this one, they've said they don't want to. And what we say is that the constitution doesn't let them do that."

"We might have an absolutely perfect military if we were willing to flush the constitution down the toilet and say that we didn't have any constitution in the military at all. But we are not willing to do that on anything else, and we shouldn't be willing to do it here either."

Government attorneys declined to speak with the press following the court appearance. Neither side would speculate when a ruling might come down. ▼

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## DoD study: gays bring discharges on themselves

United Press International

According to a new Defense Department study released April 7, gay discharges have steadily increased under the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy — but the reason may be that servicemembers believe announcing their homosexuality is a quick way to get out before their term of enlistment is finished.

Although Defense Department figures show gay discharges rose by 67 percent in the first three years of the policy — from 597 discharges in 1994 to 997 in 1997 — the report stated that most were initiated by servicemembers declaring their homosexuality. Defense Department spokesman Ken Bacon echoed that explanation, and said that 82 percent of gay discharges in 1997 resulted from servicemen and women voluntarily telling commanders that they were

gay in violation of the "Don't Tell" provision. Those cases are not investigated, according to Bacon.

He said the remaining 18 percent resulted from investigations of homosexual activity. To date no charges have been filed against servicemembers who have violated the "Don't Ask" provision.

The report says the military should protect the privacy of servicemen and women who declare themselves to be gay, and recommends new guidelines for pretrial agreements with servicemembers accused of homosexual activity. Military courts have sometimes reduced the charges against servicemembers charged with consensual sex crimes, in exchange for information about other personnel's homosexuality.

Finally, the report recommends that people be disciplined for falsely accusing members of the armed forces of homosexuality to harass them. ▼



# Navy appeals McVeigh

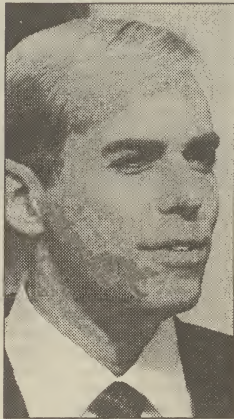
by Bob Roehr

The Clinton administration continued its strategy of stall and delay on gays in the military. Waiting until the last possible moment on Tuesday, March 31, the Justice Department filed an intent to appeal the ruling in *McVeigh v. Cohen*. The case challenges implementation of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Career petty officer Timothy McVeigh is the target of an anti-gay witchhunt launched by the Navy. The sailor has refused to comment on his sexual orientation. But the Navy believes he is gay, based upon an illegally obtained online screen name and nothing more, and attempted to discharge McVeigh (who is no relation to the Oklahoma bombing suspect of the same name). A federal court swatted the Navy down in January, issuing a permanent injunction allowing McVeigh to remain in the service.

"When the Navy affirmatively took steps to confirm the identity of the e-mail respondent, it violated the very essence of 'Don't Ask, Don't Pursue' by launching a search and destroy mission," wrote Judge Stanley Sporkin. "This Court finds that the Navy has gone too far ... [The] policy clearly was aimed at accommodating gay men and women in the military."

At that time Sporkin said he



Timothy McVeigh

was not in the business of running personnel matters of the Navy. But he did advise Department of Justice attorney David Glass that under the order McVeigh "has to be accommodated in a position that he was in" previously.

Since then the sailor has been handed menial and clerical jobs far below his rank and experience as chief of boat on a nuclear attack submarine. He has been passed over for appropriate assignments.

That brought McVeigh's attorney Christopher Wolf back before

the Judge on March 26, asking for compliance with the original order. Sporkin agreed, ordering the Navy to justify its actions by May 1, and he set a June 1 hearing date.

Justice Department spokesman Joe Krovisky said that the Navy felt "He just didn't qualify for this particular chief of boat position." And in court, government attorney David Glass cited the "confined conditions aboard the nuclear submarine."

This is but the best known example of continued harassment of lesbians and gays in the military which calls into question the Clinton administration's resolve to fairly implement "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

"The public was justifiably outraged that the Navy broke the law, and now the military is using that outrage as an excuse to punish McVeigh," said John Arvosis, an online consultant to the sailor. "There is no honor in trying to gratuitously destroy the career of a decorated American."

Dixon Osburn, co-director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, is puzzled by the administration's action. "It would appear that the decision by Judge Sporkin is consistent with what Clinton's own views of this policy are. It is the Navy which is not consistent with that."

He urged the Navy to play by its own rules on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue," and warned if it doesn't, it will be "spawning an entirely new generation of litigation." ▼

## Sapphistication

page 10

any reflex to feel threatened or beleaguered by White's verbal aggression. You know without having to think too hard that he's an idiot. And, reading between the lines of this column, you can figure out that the scammers want us to be frightened and defensive. So please: think of someone who's caused you pain by missing the point of divine love, and repeat after me: "Nyah, nyah, nyah nyah, nyah!"

Speaking of Wisconsin and stereotypes: perhaps some readers can help me overcome any I might have. Specifically, can you enlighten me as to what's fun in Milwaukee (besides driving down to Yerkes Observatory)? I'm going to be spending Memorial Day weekend there, delivering a paper on commercial lunar and plane-

tary sample return missions as part of the International Space Development Conference.

I just got this packet of conference materials that includes some alleged possibilities for fun. I'm reading the description of Saturday night's Edelweiss dinner cruise and the beautiful Milwaukee skyline ... and this Bay Area home (volcano) girl is thinking, yeah, like I'm going to be impressed.

But I'll be happy to have a good time if any Wisconsin native wants to play Chamber of Commerce for me.

Freudian typo department: So I'm typing away about gay Boy Scouts and have to backspace because my fingers entered "Goy Scouts." So what's that about? A reminder to wish my Jewish readers a good Passover? Must be. Here's hoping Elijah stops by with a special blessing for each and every one of you. ▼

## Scott Shafer

page 15

Dorothy von Beroldingen; and Carol Yaggi, a lesbian who's running for judge against gay attorney Ron Albers.

The firm has run successful campaigns of other openly lesbian and gay candidates, including former Supervisor Susan Leal's race in 1994 and her successful run last year for treasurer, and San Mateo County Supervisor Rich Gordon's race.

Perhaps one of Shafer's most successful campaigns was Democratic Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher's race in 1996 when she narrowly beat incumbent Republican Bill Baker in Contra Costa County. The contest was one of the most-watched in the state.

Before joining the firm, Shafer served former San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos from 1988 to 1989 as deputy press secretary, then as press

secretary from 1989 to 1992. In that capacity he managed all aspects of daily communications, including coordinating public information during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. From 1992 to 1994, Shafer was chief of staff for state Controller Gray Davis, now lieutenant governor and a candidate for the state's top job.

Shafer, a graduate of Cornell University and native of Buffalo, New York, started his radio news career as a reporter with KPFA and KFBK in Sacramento in the early 1980s. It was while he was at the Sacramento station that he met his mentor, Norm Woodruff, who died of complications from AIDS 10 years ago. Shafer filed some of the first stories in the nation on the epidemic.

"Morton Downey was the morning host and Norm hired Rush Limbaugh before he became famous," recalled Shafer, who went on to KOIT-AM in San Francisco. ▼



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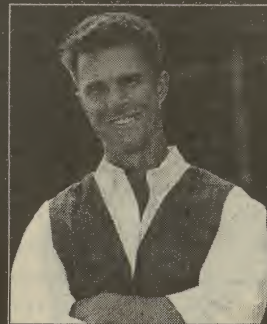
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# Pot clubs to stay open

## Case goes to trial in two weeks

### United Press International

A San Francisco judge has denied state motions to shut down a medical marijuana outlet, and has instead scheduled a jury trial for April 27.

Superior Court Judge David Garcia said Friday, April 3 there are triable issues in the state civil case pursued by Attorney General Dan Lungren.

Lungren wanted the court to close the San Francisco Cannabis Club, padlock its doors, confiscate all property, and evict all persons from the premises, based on findings for a preliminary injunction issued against it earlier.

He filed two related motions that Garcia denied, but the judge also denied a motion by defendants Dennis Peron and Beth Moore to dismiss Lungren's case.

Operators say the outlet is complying with Proposition 215, the voter-approved initiative that allows the use of marijuana to relieve the suffering of people with AIDS and other chronic illnesses.

In late February, Garcia ordered Peron to stop selling marijuana after the state Supreme Court let stand an appeals court ruling that the club isn't a "caregiver" under Proposition 215.

The judge says the trial will focus on the caregiver issue,

which Garcia had addressed earlier in determining that the club met the law's criteria. He was overruled by the appeals court.

Peron and Cannabis Club legal analyst John Entwistle remained committed to keeping the club open. "The state cannot shut us down unless it proves that we are outside the bounds of Prop. 215," Peron said. "Activists and lawyers agree that the legal battle that has gone on is superfluous, because the passage of 215 means that we are legal."

Entwistle added, "You cannot enjoin a legal act."

Peron concurred, saying, "We have always served a higher law — the law of saving lives." ▼

# Grassroots video grows

## Free how-to video to medical pot patients

by Eric M. Rose

When Alaine Lowell heard over the AP wire that the courts and California Attorney General Dan Lungren were attempting to close down the state's medical cannabis clubs, she knew something had to be done. And as owner of Parallax Productions, which distributes a video on how to grow marijuana plants, that's exactly what she did.

"As soon as we heard this thing about closing the [Cannabis Clubs] and we read that it was okay for people to grow it, we thought, 'they need to know how

to grow it by themselves if they're going to be forced into that situation,'" Lowell told the *B.A.R.*, referring to the recent California Court of Appeals ruling that buyers clubs cannot be considered Proposition 215-sanctioned "primary caregivers."

Just last year, Lowell and her associates, Kathleen Kroll and George Holtz, produced *Grow Dutch*, a home video guide and documentary about marijuana cultivation in Holland that shows viewers, step-by-step, the Dutch techniques of cultivating high-quality marijuana indoors, along with the history, botany, and medical uses of the drug. Parallax Productions had made *Grow Dutch*, which they sell by mail-order for \$19.95, to raise money for a documentary on marijuana, called *America's War Against Marijuana*, that they began filming four years ago with the hopes of a national broadcast on PBS. In just a year's time, according to Lowell, they have already sold well over 1,000 copies of the video.

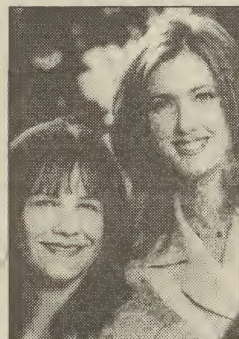
Lowell had initially wanted to produce a three-part documentary on the entire history of marijuana, but she said, PBS wasn't interested in a piece with such a broad scope. So she decided to pick the most pressing aspect — the government's war against the drug. Lowell said they first became interested in the marijuana issue after Holtz had read *The Emperor Has No Clothes*, which she said opened their eyes to the huge cost of the war on drugs, both in tax dollars and human lives.

"As we researched it, we found that the war against marijuana was the most important issue — taxwise and healthwise — with people being denied marijuana for no reason. We thought if people knew the facts they wouldn't be so quick to condemn it," Lowell told the *B.A.R.*

"Something like 75-80 percent of prisoners are non-violent drug offenders, and we spend \$30 billion annually on prisons. Yet 75 percent of the war on drugs is against marijuana," Lowell said, noting that "It doesn't seem constitutional that you can be denied a plant."

### A tape for a doctor's note

The documentary, which the filmmakers hope to have completed by this fall, follows a medical marijuana patient who had been



Alaine Lowell and Kathleen Kroll.

arrested for using marijuana, as well as an American glaucoma patient who moved to Holland after being arrested in Kentucky for growing marijuana for medicinal use. "He lost his farm, his job — everything," Lowell noted. But completion of the documentary is contingent on finding the funding they need to complete the film, which has mainly been financed by their personal savings, video sales, grants written under the tax-deductible status of their umbrella organization, the International Documentary Association, and even a donation from Pretenders' lead singer Chrissie Hynde, who also donated a song for use in the *Grow Dutch* video.

Lowell was also pleased to note that they had just given away their first free copy of *Grow Dutch* at a medical marijuana demonstration held in Southern California. "We were there in front of the news cameras," she said. "He showed me his doctor's note, and I gave him the video."

Medical marijuana patients who would like a free copy of *Grow Dutch* should submit a note from their doctor approving the use of medicinal pot and their mailing address via fax: (626) 564-0441, or mail: P.O. Box 2503, Pasadena, CA 91105. Others interested in ordering the video for \$19.95 may order toll-free at (888) 796-3599.

Donations for the completion of the video are also being accepted, Lowell added, and can be sent to the same address, though checks for tax-deductible donations must be made out to the International Documentary Association. ▼

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Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

**Peter B. Dyer**

Dec. 24, 1943 - Feb. 7, 1998



Peter Dyer died of pancreatic cancer on February 7 in San Diego. He is survived by his mother, Eleanor Dyer; sister, Pamela Hoffmeister; brother, Brooks Dyer; niece, Elizabeth Fratus; and lifetime friend, Van Smith. Peter Dyer attended John Hopkins University; lived in Germany as an American Field Service exchange student and lived in Spain, Paris and New York before moving to San Francisco in 1971. In the '70s, Peter was a regular at the Stud, Ambush and No Name. He worked as a writer in the retail fashion

industry until 1995. Peter moved to San Diego in October 1996, where he prepared for an active retirement near the beach. His final 16 months were some of the happiest times of his life.

Peter Dyer experienced the world in delicious and ironic ways. His paintings, writings, antiques and encyclopedic knowledge reflected his rich and complex interior life. Ordinary people and places brought him a sense of delight and laughter. He displayed kindness and compassion for those who didn't quite fit society's mold, and he contributed uniquely to the people whose lives he touched. Peter Dyer loved his friends and family far more profoundly than we may ever know.

We miss Peter terribly and will hold in our hearts always.

**Gary Griebel**

Jan. 15, 1941 - March 15, 1998



Gary passed from this world in his beloved home at Clear Lake on March 15. He was 57. Gary is survived by his long-time companion, Tony Pavan; his mother, Miriam Young; two brothers, Guy and Terry Griebel; and their families. He resided in San Francisco from the early '70s to 1994.

Gary was the co-owner of two bars: the Trench in San Francisco and the Embers at the Russian River. He also was involved in real estate and especially enjoyed his renovation projects. He treasured his friends and enjoyed entertaining in his home, boating, traveling, gardening and canasta.

So many gathered around Gary, not only because of his gregarious nature but also because he brought a spark to their lives. His magnetic presence will

be missed by friends and family.

All Gary's friends are invited to a memorial service on April 25 at noon at his Clear Lake home. For more information, please call 415-674-4417.

**Jeffrey C. Smith**

December 25, 1997



Jeffrey C. Smith, international opera critic and editor, died unexpectedly on Christmas in Boston from prostate cancer. He was 54.

Jeff was an avid book and classical record/opera collector who amassed over 10,000 sets and 6,000 books. He wrote reviews for both major opera houses and regional companies. He was always willing to recognize quality opera at a fledgling company and give them international press coverage. As a freelance editor, he edited thousands of books over a 30-year career. He was one of the lucky few who loved his work.

Jeff was an inspiration and a loyal friend who combined worldly wit, compassion and intelligence with a New England Yankee savvy. He avidly exchanged correspondence with friends all over the world. He spent several weeks each year in San Francisco and leaves us with a legacy of laughter and good memories.

Jeff is survived by his mother, Barbara Smith; his sister and brother-in-law, Sara and Lee Zipp; nieces, Alexis and Samantha; and his close friends, Steven Abbott of San Francisco and Ivan Santiago of Boston. Jeff was predeceased by his oldest friend, Rick Fries, who died of AIDS in 1995.

There will be a service for Jeff this summer. Please call Steven at 415-626-3252 for further information.

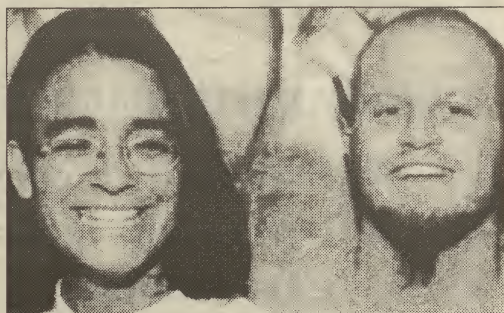
**HIV-positive youth  
speak out at HIFY**

by Eric M. Rose

The HIV-Positive Youth Speakers Bureau, a program of the Health Initiative for Youth (HIFY), will be holding a training seminar for HIV-positive young persons ages 25 and under who are interested in joining the Speakers Bureau on the weekend of April 17-19. This training will prepare young people in the areas of public speaking, group facilitation, and HIV issues.

"Our philosophy at the Speakers Bureau is that it's an opportunity for other young people to hear a testimony of what it is to be living with HIV as a young person," HIFY Community Health Education Coordinator Kim Compoc told the B.A.R.

Founded in June of 1992 with money from the Ryan White Care Act, the HIV-positive Youth Speakers Bureau has supported more than 70 young HIV-positive speakers and has reached tens of thousands of young people, their parents, policymakers, healthcare



HIFY Community Health Education Coordinator Kim Compoc (left) with Speakers Bureau Coordinator Aaron Burda: "We focus on self-esteem building and community building among participants."

providers, and community leaders across the nation. The bureau typically conducts their hour-long speaking engagements in "youth-friendly" spaces, such as a classroom or community center in a format that Compoc describes as "heart to heart, toe to toe, youth to youth." Speakers share their experiences with their personal battles with HIV, the behaviors and activities that led to their HIV infection, what it is like to test positive for HIV, and information about their lives today. "We're not working from a 'just say no' mentality," added Compoc, who pointed out the myriad issues involved.

"We focus on self-esteem building and community building among participants," says Compoc, who says they've found that the Speakers Bureau training also improves the self-esteem of the HIV-positive participants.

"The coming out process is very therapeutic for a lot of people," she said, because it helps them overcome their own denial about the disease and "because they know that they're helping

others make better choices."

HIFY also publishes *Reality*, a free magazine by and for HIV-positive young people. According to Compoc, the magazine mimics a *People Magazine* look, covering issues for young people who are living with HIV and including poetry, photography, health and treatment issues, and personal stories.

Although the training seminar is limited to 10 participants, Compoc said there is still space available for interested HIV-positive youth.

"A special invitation goes out to women, people of color, and heterosexual males in particular," Compoc added. ▼

For more information about Health Initiatives for Youth, the HIV-Positive Speakers Bureau, or the *Reality* magazine, or to register for the upcoming training seminar, call Kim or Aaron at (415) 487-5777.In Memorium  
**Richard Craig Corville**  
Nov. 14, 1949 - April 2, 1996Sweet Richard, lover of Gardens, herbs & roses,  
May the light of Soul  
Always shine brightly  
Within you.  
We will always love you.  
—your sister, Carol



# Glimmers of hope regarding PML

by Steven LeBlanc, ACT UP/  
Golden Gate Writers Pool

Having lived with HIV for 17 years with no serious opportunistic infections, things were going well for Ray Perry in March of 1997. "I had been on a protease inhibitor cocktail for four months, T-cells were up to 200, and I was feeling mostly good," he now recalls. But in April of 1997, the now 44-year-old former truck driver experienced some strange symptoms.

"I am left-handed and noticed that while driving my left arm would get heavy and I would drift out of my lane. Simple things, like holding a bowl or whisking eggs for an omelet, would tire my left hand and arm very quickly. My doctor checked this and checked that, but found nothing. Weeks went by and the weakness became really noticeable and my left leg became affected. I went back to the doctor and said something is really wrong."

Perry's doctor ordered an MRI brain scan which "he told me showed something, but he wasn't sure what." A spinal tap was inconclusive. "They told me, 'We think you have PML, but we can't be sure without a brain biopsy.' The biopsy was not nearly as bad as it sounds, there was no pain and I joked with the surgeon the whole time. The results came back and they told me I had PML, that PML was untreatable, and I had one to four months to live."

PML (progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy) is an infection of the brain by JC virus, a virus found in 85 percent of all people, usually in the kidneys. JC virus is only harmful to those chronically immunosuppressed. Studies suggest that PML exists in two to seven percent of AIDS patients, with higher numbers coming from autopsy studies, suggesting PML is under-diagnosed during life. There may be less awareness of PML than other AIDS-related diseases because the tests needed to correctly diagnose it are expensive and sound unpleasant, because doctors are likely to treat for other conditions like toxoplasmosis first, and because PML can very rapidly disable and kill. Prior to widespread use of protease inhibitors, average survival time after a PML diagnosis was four months, although increasing cases of stabilization and remission are occurring, especially among those receiving aggressive anti-HIV treatment. Early symptoms of PML can include disturbances in speech, vision, hearing, walking, or body strength and coordination.

## 'A bunch of crap'

For reasons he can't quite explain, Ray Perry did not accept his doctor's grim prognosis. "I remember thinking: 'That's a bunch of crap. I know other people have dealt with this and I choose not to accept this sentence of death.' I had never touched a computer but I knew I needed to get on the Internet. By the time a book or periodical is out, it is out of date, and I knew I needed stuff that was happening not six months ago, but last week."

Perry went to a public library near his home in Portland, Oregon. "I turned the computer on and started pushing buttons. It



Ray Perry: "I remember thinking: 'That's a bunch of crap.'"

jammed every few minutes, but the librarian helped me. I found articles about several experimental studies that all proved to be for naught, and the names of neurologists all over the country whom I called. Someone told me about a SmithKline Beecham study of topotecan with a site in San Francisco. It was the end of June at this point and I was in a wheelchair, but I flew down and did the intake with Dr. Dawn McGuire at Davies Hospital, and by the end of July started my first of three, three-week intravenous infusions of topotecan."

Dr. Dawn McGuire, a nationally recognized expert in PML treatment, stresses accurate definitive diagnosis when asked about current prospects for those facing PML. "We miss diagnosing PML often and we often call brain lesions PML when they are not. Zoster, CMV, and lymphoma can all imitate PML on CT or MRI scans and in symptoms. The first two patients that came to me for topotecan had a definitive diagnosis of PML by MRI. After brain biopsy, one patient actually had a herpes zoster infection causing the lesions, which was treatable with acyclovir infusions. The second was a patient at Kaiser, and we had to fight to get them to pay for a brain biopsy. We did a spinal tap PCR looking for JC virus and it came back negative. That allowed us to argue to Kaiser that we needed a brain biopsy for a definitive diagnosis. It turned out the man had lymphoma, which was treatable, and he is now doing well."

"Patients have a right to get a definitive diagnosis when there are therapeutic options, and you can not diagnose PML with MRI or CT scans alone. Serious complications from brain biopsies are less than one percent, and when dealing with brain lesions quick,

accurate diagnosis is critically important. When a definitive diagnosis of PML is made early, patients have two therapeutic options, one is to maximize anti-HIV therapy, which improves the immune response and may help inhibit the JC virus by reducing levels of HIV-TAT protein, and the other is topotecan."

Topotecan is compound marketed by SmithKline Beecham for ovarian cancer under the name Hycamtin. It is a semi-synthetic derivative of camptothecin, an extract of an oriental tree that was first investigated in 1958. Topotecan interferes with DNA creation in cells. Both cancer cells and viruses must create DNA to multiply, while most cells in an adult body do not multiply and do not create new DNA. Targeting DNA creation is one of the few ways to kill cancer cells without killing all other cells in the patient. It is also one of the few ways to kill some viruses, because viruses hijack normally cell functions to reproduce. Targeting DNA creation does lead to depleting white blood cells and red blood cells, which are constantly reproduced, and topotecan, like other anti-cancer drugs, has side-effects of serious anemia and neutropenia.

Perry experienced these side effects, but something also dramatically worked for him. "I did one three-week infusion of the drug in San Francisco and there was an immediate improvement, then I went home for a week. When I came back, the drug had suppressed my bone marrow so much that we delayed the second infusions for two weeks." Perry ultimately did three courses of topotecan and needed a total of 10 blood transfusions during treatment, but his condition improved with each treatment.

McGuire reports that during the end of the first round of treatment, Perry could use his leg, during the second round of treatment he could use his left arm, after the third round of treatment, most of

the function came back to his left side.

"When this started, the PML lesions in my brain measured 46 cubic centimeters, then they shrunk to 8 c.c. after the initial treatment," Perry said. "On February 6, 1998, I had an MRI in Oregon which showed the lesions to be gone completely."

Dan Cusick, veteran AIDS activist, former member of ACT UP Golden Gate, and Project Inform employee, opted not to try topotecan when diagnosed with PML in 1995. "In June 1995, I rented a car and noticed that I didn't see cars pass me on the left until they were 20 feet ahead. I went to my eye doctor thinking I was having a glaucoma attack. He

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# Step by step

by Jim Provenzano

Marathon and the half marathon are possibly the hardest of sporting events in terms of endurance. Not only are you racing against others, but also the clock, the incredible fatigue, and the pain and pressure shooting up your legs. Despite the well-known "runner's high" of such intense effort, your lungs ache. Your mouth dries up. The finish line seems farther away with every step. It's a glorious form of torture.

But popular torture. According to last week's tally from Amsterdam, some 1,100 people will compete in this open event. Over 500 of those folks will be from the U.S.

Anne Ludwig is also one of those folks who loves the marathon, as do her fellow members of Bay Area Distance Runners and San Francisco Front Runners. Anne will be doing the half marathon, which she considers a lot less grueling than the full marathon. "I've seen people crawl their way to the finish line," she says. "That's a bit much."

Front Runners' name, of course, is derived from the classic novel by Patricia Nell Warren, who was instrumental in starting the world's first official gay and lesbian sporting group 25 years ago.

Around that time, in Iowa as a closeted baby dyke, Ludwig played softball in a recreational league.

"Although I've been running for 25 years," she says, "I never got faster." Even so, her skills have improved; surprisingly, Ludwig smoked cigarettes until five years ago, which she credits as having helped her endurance.

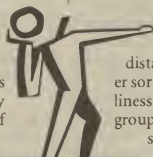
It was about the time she kicked the tobacco habit that "I joined Front Runners for social aspect. It keeps you running," she says. Besides, it keeps away that old "loneliness of the long-distance runner" of another sort of literary fame. Loneliness seems anathema to the group, which is 250 members strong.

"I run during the week, too," she says, "but I almost always go to Saturday run" with the group.

Ludwig has also remained injury-free, at least from running pains and sprains. "I've been incredibly lucky. Running itself is pretty safe, and a cheap sport. You don't need much equipment."

She is careful not to overtrain, though, and mentions other club members who run a marathon a month. "There are people in the group who are competitive. Some members have had great times, and even set records."

As expected, distance runners enjoy other long-distance sports. Ludwig recently did a bike ride across Iowa. During her trek she came across a small town that had a Wizard of Oz festival, and had even painted the main street with gold bricks and hung a huge rainbow over the town square. Ludwig



**Sports Complex**



Game for the Games: SF Front Runners are readying for Amsterdam.

declined to mention the alternative significance of the rainbow.

## Fairy to Ferry

Dave Studach is another pillar of the running community who agrees that some marathons are tougher than others. "Sometimes it's great," he says. "But sometimes the first mile mark seems like it's way farther than it should be."

For training, he recommends that runners "make sure you have a good base and can run 13 miles easily." With his team, "after that we do a steps program of longer runs every two weeks. We start with 13-milers, build up gradual-

ly to 18-20, ending with a 23-miler. That's been our style." A popular run is the 23-mile Fairy to Ferry, which goes from the Castro to Tiburon.

As a kid, Studach swam and wrestled in Corvallis, Oregon. He didn't start running until moving to San Francisco in 1976. He's been running for 15 years, and at marathons in Boston, New York, Berlin, and "other places all up and down the West Coast." His favorites include Stockholm and Dublin. Gay Games V will be his 40th event!

Thirty-three people are going to Amsterdam with the team. In addition to Team SF jackets, runners will also compete in team singlets, and Studach is looking forward to so much Bay Area visibility in the Netherlands. "They'll be saying, 'The people from San Francisco are all over!'"

Studach has no problem with the number of competitors in massive runs. "Unless you're an elite athlete, you can't compete against everyone," he says. "Normally you're competing against yourself. Unless you put that pressure on yourself, there's no pressure."

Studach's advice for novice runners: "Build up gradually and don't attack all at once. Don't overtrain. Enjoy peaks and valleys." His recommended pattern: one week go hard, then soft, and do this in monthly and yearly cycles. "Give yourself a chance to rest. Don't be afraid to stop and walk during a training run."

## Staying in shape

If there is a problem at the Gay Games in Amsterdam, it is that the marathon is on the final day, which will accommodate the many athletes competing in other events. But the difficulty for marathoners will be staying in training throughout a week of festivities, parties, and foreign food.

To make sure they're prepared, Bay Area Distance Runners will pick up the pace of their training, increasing their Sunday runs to 10 miles. Local events are also helping the team get in gear — particularly the famous/infamous/notorious Bay to Breakers run a little more than a month away, on May 17. (The month after that will be the annual Pride Run where heterosexuals can participate only if they don't ask and don't tell.)

Ludwig has run several times in both Pride and Bay to Breakers. It's an annual tradition for BADR and Front Runners to make themselves visibly noticed at Bay to

Breakers each year, usually with some of the group holding aloft a huge rainbow flag. This year's theme is "25 Years of Running Queers," and there will be more queer runners than ever before.

It seems such visibility is still necessary. The last time Ludwig helped carry the rainbow flag, a few people complimented the design, but were still clueless about its significance. "Obviously," she says, "they were from out of town!" Maybe Iowa.

• **DO RUN, RUN** — Front Runners meet every Saturday at 9 a.m. at Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park, and Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Ferry Terminal Building (at the end of Market Street) in the Financial District, with runs along the Embarcadero toward Fisherman's Wharf. Dinners follow these runs.

Bay to Breakers Weekend is May 15-17, with a welcome party for out-of-towners, a picnic brunch, and the traditional Saturday night pasta feed. The run itself will be Sunday morning. Wacky costumes, are, of course, encouraged.

The annual Pride Run will be June 20, with a 5K/10K Run/Walk in Golden Gate Park. For more information call (415) 978-2429.

• **FETE** — Team San Francisco will have a big kick-off party and fundraiser May 9 at the Tom Waddell House on Albion Street in San Francisco. For more information about this event, call Team SF at (415) 522-2386.

• **FASHION** — Team San Francisco members (and non-members) need to order their uniforms for the Gay Games procession at Opening and Closing Ceremonies before April 15! For more information, call (415) 522-2386. You can try on uniforms (which come in a snazzy grapey purple!) at High Gear, 600 Castro St. at 19th, (415) 552-0635, or In-Jean-jious at 432 Castro, (415) 864-1434.

• **FINISH LINE** — Marathon runners can register until half an hour before the start at 9 a.m. on August 8. To register earlier, which is advisable, runners can request a marathon form from the Gay Games Amsterdam Callcenter by calling 011 31 20 427 1998 or writing to P.O. Box 2837, 1000 CV Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Also, contrary to rumor and myth, there are still hotel rooms available in Amsterdam. Call the number above, write the address above, or e-mail info@gaygames.nl or visit www.gaygames.nl for help and information. ▼

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## CLASSIFIEDS

## Easter events set by Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence

by Eric M. Rose

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will be hosting two events over the upcoming holiday weekend. First, on Good Friday (April 10) they will hold what Sister Ann R. Key called "a cleansing ritual to rid the city of hatred and intolerance." The group will first meet at 9 p.m. outside of the Loading Dock bar at the corner of Mission and 11th Streets where Brian Wilmes was murdered on March 12.

The 9 p.m. time slot is set to coincide with the time of the murder, Sister Ann R. Key told the B.A.R. and will "give people who want to express anger or sadness a place to vent their feelings."

Following the ritual, the Sisters will lead a candlelight procession back to the Castro, where a second cleansing ritual will take place at 10:30 p.m. People are encouraged to attend both cleansings, bringing votive candles, flowers, memorials, and whistles for safety.

Sunday, April 12 will mark the occasion of everybody's favorite sacred holiday — the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence's 19th annual founding celebration, Indulgence in the Park IV. This year's event will be celebrated with a family-oriented picnic and Easter egg hunt in the Castro's Collingwood Park from noon to 3 p.m. There will be various activities planned, including special

activities for children.

Also in attendance will be members of the twelve Bay Area nonprofit groups chosen as beneficiaries of the Sister's 1997 Grant Money. The monetary awards, in the amount of \$500 each, will be presented at the gathering to the following organizations: Deaf Communities Together, Inc.; Episcopal Community Services of San Francisco; Eureka Valley Teen Program; Golden Gate Youth Services, Inc.; Harvey Milk Institute; HIV Education and Prevention Project of Alameda County (HEPPAC); Maitri Residential Care for People Living With AIDS; Prostate Cancer Resource; Quan Yin Healing Arts Center; Shanti Activities Program; South Bay Bisexuals and Organizers (SoBOA); and Sunburst Project's Day Camp Program.

"This is money fundraised throughout the year," Sister Ann said, and, aside from their small operating costs "we like to give back all of the money we raise in the community."

Everyone is encouraged to pack a picnic and celebrate with the Sisters and the nonprofits. Additional activities are also planned for the late afternoon and early evening at The Edge bar, located at 4149 18th Street, where Sister Ann warns "it will get more wild." The evening's activities will include bonnet and basket contests, as well as the infamous "Hunky Jesus" contest. ▼

## ACT UP

◀ page 25

determined that I had lost my left peripheral vision, but in both eyes, which ruled out glaucoma. He told me it was either lymphoma, a stroke, or PML. My T-cells had never been below 500, and so he ruled out PML and diagnosed a stroke. I was referred me to Dawn McGuire, who suspected PML from the MRI even though my T-cell count was not down at 20, when PML almost always occurs. A brain biopsy confirmed it was PML. I decided to try an aggressive anti-viral approach rather than topotecan. This was August 1995, and 3tc and Saquinavir had been through clinical trials but were not on the market. I couldn't get the drugs through compassionate release, but someone on a 3tc study gave me half his drug and someone on a double-dose Saquinavir study gave me half his, and I started on 3tc, Saquinavir, and 1200 milligrams of AZT. Within two weeks, my viral load went from 46,000 to undetectable and the lesions started shrinking and were gone in a year and a half. I feel good now, though I haven't gotten my peripheral vision back, but haven't had any further symptoms or evidence of PML."

While Perry and McGuire both strongly believe the topotecan helped him, the drug's developers are not ready to attribute any success to the drug. "We are cautiously hopeful that topotecan will help people with PML," explains SmithKline Beecham spokesperson Sharyn Arnold. "It is a difficult study because we want anyone getting topotecan to be on the best anti-HIV medicine available for them, but it is then hard to know whether any benefit is due to topotecan or the other anti-HIV drugs. We also require a brain biopsy diagnosis and don't

downplay the serious potential side effects, and that may discourage people from trying the drugs."

Perry strongly believes people and doctors dealing with HIV need to inform themselves about PML and be prepared to address it quickly. "I want people to know what I went through and God forbid that they should have their doctor misdiagnose them for two months then tell them to go home and pick out a casket. If I had been diagnosed earlier, I might not be here with the residual paralysis I have today."

While the outlook for those experiencing symptoms of PML is not good, a prudent treatment strategy would include immediate use of non-invasive diagnostic procedures such as MRI, optimization of anti-HIV therapy, immediate consideration of invasive diagnostic procedures such as spinal tap and brain biopsy, and quick evaluation of possible experimental treatments, such as topotecan. ▼

Both Ray Perry and Dan Cusick are willing to speak to patients facing PML and can be reached by calling ACT UP Golden Gate at (415) 252-9200 and leaving a message for Stephen LeBlanc. Dr. Dawn McGuire can be reached through her study coordinator David Sexton at Davies Hospital at (415) 565-6014. More information about SmithKline Beecham's topotecan trials can be had from Sharyn Arnold at (215) 751-7074. Information about topotecan side effects is available at [www.sb.com/products/index.html](http://www.sb.com/products/index.html) (Hycamtin). An earlier PML article is available on ACT UP/Golden Gate's website at [www.actupgg.org/BAR/art0029.html](http://www.actupgg.org/BAR/art0029.html). A fact sheet is available at [www.thebody.com/jh/hivrept/mar97/pml.html](http://www.thebody.com/jh/hivrept/mar97/pml.html).

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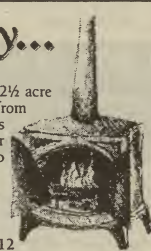
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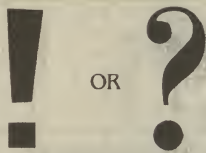
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## LEGAL NOTICES

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 221372**  
The following person(s) are doing business as Artisan Landscaping, 77 Ramona Ave. #2 San Francisco CA 94103-2224. This business is conducted by a individual signed Todd E. Menard. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 16, 1998.  
**MAR., 19, 26, APRIL 2, 9, 1998**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 221236**  
The following person(s) are doing business as Mes Amis 193. 193 Franklin St. SF. CA. 94102. This business is conducted by a individual signed Clarence E. Hayes Jr. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 03/10/98. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 10, 1998.  
**MAR., 19, 26, APRIL 2, 9, 1998**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 221235**  
The following person(s) are doing business as MD Consulting, 13 Seabreeze, Cl. Pacifica CA 94044. This business is conducted by a individual signed Michael Ian Day. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 03/10/98. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 10, 1998.  
**MAR., 19, 26, APRIL 2, 9, 1998**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 221347**  
The following person(s) are doing business as SF. Festival Committee, 484 17th Ave. SF., CA 94121. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Ye Wu. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 03/13/98. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 13, 1998.  
**MAR., 19, 26, APRIL 2, 9, 1998**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 221214**  
The following person(s) are doing business as Bay City Tax Service, 3015 22nd St., SF., CA 94110. This business is conducted by a individual signed Bernardo E Quijano. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/98. This

statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/10/98.  
**MAR., 19, 26, APRIL 2, 9, 1998**

### NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE. 270134

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of Rudolph Fenley. A petition for probate has been filed by Andre Fenley & Deundra Fenley-Dixon in the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco. The Petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A Hearing on the petition will be held on April 13, 1998 at 9:00 AM RM. 204, Probate Dept. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for petitioner: Karen Alicia Davis, 988 Market Street, Suite 309, San Francisco, CA 94102-4004. (415) 673-8430.  
**MARCH 26, APRIL 2, 9, 1998**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 221231**  
The following person(s) are doing business as Kevin Joyce Design 529 Texas Street, San Francisco, CA 94107. This business is conducted by a individual signed Kevin Lowry Joyce. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed

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fictitious business name or names on Jan. 1, 1998. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/10/98.  
**MAR 26, APRIL 2, 9, 19, 1998**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.**  
Date of filing of Application, March 18, 1998. To whom it may concern: The name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: Fields Catherine, McGarry Maureen. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 139 A Eight St. San Francisco City & CA 94103. For the following license: 41 ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE.  
**MARCH 26 APRIL 2, 9, 1998**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 221645**  
The following person(s) are doing business as Baraonda Trattoria Restaurant, 2164-2162 Larkin St. San Francisco, CA, 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Fabrizio Laudati. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on N/A the statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/26/1998.  
**APRIL 2, 9, 16, 23, 1998**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 221382**  
The following person(s) are doing business as Gay Global San Francisco 805 Cortland Ave San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael Bosshard. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 03/16/98 the statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/16/1998.  
**APRIL 2, 9, 16, 23, 1998**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 221823**  
The following person(s) are doing business as D. B. Images, 512 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Glen F. Cook. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 04/02/98 the statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/02/1998.  
**APRIL 9, 16, 23, 30, 1998**



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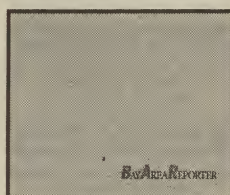


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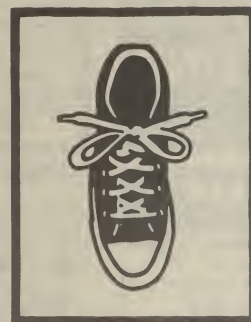
*Fig. 1*



*Fig. 2*



*Fig. 3*



*Fig. 4*

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The sun will come up to Morrow  
'Show Boat's Karen Morrow, famous for  
not being famous, catches up with a fan.  
page 37

'Othello' in black, white,  
and orange makeup: von  
Buchau reviews SF Ballet.  
page 40



Band on the run  
D'Arcy Drollinger's rock  
musical 'Ultra Showgirls.'  
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 15 • 9 April 1998

## Merce magic

### merce cunningham dance company in berkeley

by Matthew Kennedy

**T**he venerable Merce Cunningham Dance Company was at Zellerbach Hall last weekend for the first of yearly residencies at the University of California, Berkeley campus. Cunningham has been received on these shores many times before, most recently in a landmark in-the-round premiere of the stunning full-length *Ocean* in 1996, but now we can expect him and his sprites to materialize more regularly.

For the Cunningham spectator, every performance is a lesson in irony. His body is limited, but his mind grows evermore nimble. The great choreographer is now 80, and

as he grows more disabled by age and infirmity, his dancers realize the work not through direct example but by an extraordinary creative osmosis brought on by his epic legacy and particular movement vocabulary. As befitting the supreme high lama of abstract modern dance, his dances refuse to reference the accompanying music, a story, even a mood felt or intended. Even so, his dancers are embedded in a style so unmistakably Cunninghamesque that they begin to reference themselves. One takes refuge not in any "meaning" behind the movement, but in the first or fifth Cunningham performance you saw, and how the work has or has not changed over the years. The man has created his own universe, as predictable as it is unique.

*Windows*, the first piece of the repertory performance last Friday, was a case in point. Dancers were clad in the

page 46 ►



Merce Cunningham (center) brought the Merce Cunningham Dance Company to Berkeley with six new works on two different programs, including the American premiere of *Pond Way* with music by Brian Eno and design by Roy Lichtenstein; the West Coast premiere of *Scenario*, with design by couturier Rei Kawakuba; and the Bay Area premiere of *Ground Level Overlay*, last weekend in Zellerbach Hall.

Chris Galtis

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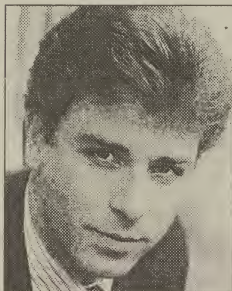
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**ALL NEW '98**

by Roberto Friedman  
and Hera Caen

Our friends in the opera world were just busting their busters last week over the antics of those bodacious performing lovebirds French-born Sicilian tenor **Roberto Alagna** and his diva wife, always tagged in *The New York Times* as "the glamorous Romanian soprano **Angela Gheorghiu**." Metropolitan Opera

general manager **Joseph Volpe** pulled their contract to sing the lead roles in next season's **Franco Zeffirelli** production of *La Traviata*, claiming the stars wanted to have final approval on the production design.



Roberto Alagna

Our opera world **Deep Throat** tells us that the behind-the-scenes histrionics extend well beyond the well-reported tizzy Gheorghiu threw over having to wear a wig in a Zeffirelli *Carmen* in Japan. Seems the diva can be quite the jealous wife. When her Roberto did a *Bohème* recording and video with Romanian soprano **Leontina Vaduva**—a pairing described by *Those Who Know* as "sex-on-a stick"—Gheorghiu was able to hold up the release of the video until Vaduva was taken off the box cover.



The other woman? Leontina Vaduva

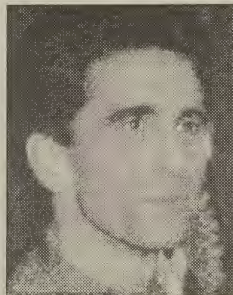
News of the embarrassing imbroglia, splashed across the *Times* front page, came just as EMI Classics mounted a press launch to announce the singing couple's joint recording contract, a "creative collaboration" with EMI to last "well into the millennium." EMI is still trying to live down a media campaign two years ago that proclaimed Alagna "the Fourth Tenor" (as if Three weren't enough) and plastered his face all over billboards and buses in NYC. The Whatever-Number Tenor says a homeless man once told him, "I just slept on your face for a week."

#### Ladies who launch

The first thing we like to know about an event is who its sponsors are, in order better to adapt our expectations to the type of free booze on offer. We were thrilled to learn that this year's **Gay Pride** is being brought to us by Anhauser Busch, since we are no longer able to hold our vodka.

Bottomless Budweiser in hand, we inhaled several bay shrimp quesadilla wraps, a chicken schnitzel finger, and lots of fresh veggies with Ranch sauce during last week's Pride Launch Party, held at the co-sponsoring Hard Rock Cafe. Just like the *Titanic*, Pride had never been "launched" before, but was doing itself proud with 90 minutes of private party worth about \$3,000, plus donated drinks.

A man named **Willie** waxed reminiscent about "Harvey," and we all knew who he meant, but we still think he should have



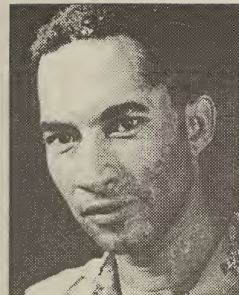
Mark Leno

used Mrs. Milk's boy's last name. Mr. Brown then introduced that morning's appointee to the Board of Supes, **Mark Leno**, who claimed to be looking forward to riding in the parade at 10:30 a.m. with a bunch of beautiful bare-breasted women passing Southern Comfort, if we heard him correctly. Personally, we never do anything stronger than espresso once we're in the saddle.

#### Booked into parties

Meanwhile, the reception for the 10th Annual Lambda Literary Awards Finalists was a fair-to-sizzling affair, the Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room at the SF Main Library stuffed to the gills with Lammie nominees, Lambda Book Report publisher **Jim Marks** and Senior Editor **Kanani Kauka**, A Different Light's **Richard Labonté**, contributors to the spankin' new San Francisco Special issue of *The James White Review*, and an assortment of SF literati. Maybe it was just the glamour of the Lammies, but there was queer electricity in the room in that library basement. Schmoozing went on for just long enough to make a few passes at the free food and wine (and, in the case of a well-known **Midwestern queer publisher**, passes at some of the writers). Then the Lammie finalists started reading, and the real fireworks started.

Lannan Literary Fellow **Cyrus Cassells**, looking resplendent in a silk shirt, read erotic poems from *Beautiful Signor*; then *Lesbians Raising Sons* editor **Jess Wells** came out as the author of a piece she had published under a pseudonym, saying she no longer cares about offending any men she



Cyrus Cassells

knows. *Best American Gay Fiction* editor **Brian Bouldrey** (or "Brain Bouldrey," as he was listed in the program) made a few off-the-cuff comments about being gay men-specific in his remarks, which led *Diesel Fuel* author **Pat Califia** to explain facetiously that the title to her book is a reference to "diesel dykes," for all us non-dykes in the audi-

ence. By the time *Bite Hard* poet **Justin Chin** and *Flaming Iguanas*



Pat Califia

cartoonist **Erika Lopez** brought their own special stuff to the podium, the library was rocking. As one of the luminaries noted, librarians have long been out in front defending freedom of expression and the public's access to all kinds of books, so it was especially nice that the queer lit affair was held in the bowels of the New Main.

There to root on **Randy Conner**, editor of *Cassell's Encyclopedia of Queer Myth, Symbol and Spirit*, was a small faerie contingent including *Bound Together*

page 54 ►

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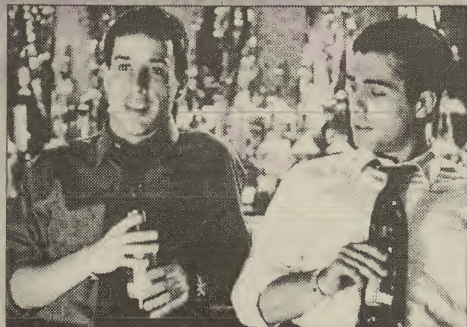
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#### FILM

### Boys at the bar



**A**lexis Arquette as Bob (left) and Christian Maelen as Brendan (right) share a beery moment in Brian Sloan's romantic comedy *I Think I Do*, opening Friday at the Lumiere. Marianne Hagan as Sarah, Guillermo Diaz (yum) as Eric, and Maddie Corman as Beth round out the cast of the ensemble screwball comedy. Here's how it goes: Bob and Brendan are best friends until a wrestling match gets a little too intimate. Sarah beats Bob to the punch and "sleeps with" Brendan, beating Bob to the punch. ▼



# Interview in New York

# The Odd Couple's very even Neil Simon

by Brandon Judell

In Neil Simon's memoir, *Rewrites*, AIDS serves as a time-marker the three times it's mentioned: "My brother Danny ... never met a woman he didn't want to bed, and never even waited for the bed to accomplish his desires. To him sex was a shooting gallery, and every duck that popped up was more desirable than the last one. He rarely missed ... This was all, of course, in a pre-AIDS world."

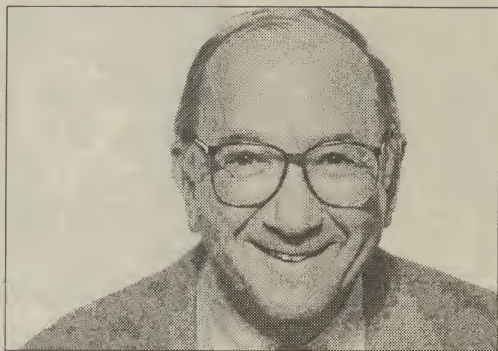
"Homosexuality" — unlike "Pearl Harbor," "papaya injections," and "AIDS" — does not make it into his index at all. We are there, though, as odds-increasers for those wanting to get laid. Recalling the pre-Broadway tour of *Promises, Promises*, Mr. Simon writes, "With the male chorus, while not entirely so, a large number of men would be gay. That leaves a disproportionate number of women who are alone. But not for long ... We were in a pre-AIDS world where all you had to worry about was your conscience and your discretion."

Well, we never expected much gay lib from the Pulitzer Prize-winning dramatist who has over 30 plays and 25 screenplays under his belt. There are the musicals (*Come Blow Your Horn*, *Sweet Charity*), the comedies (*Barefoot in the Park*, *The Sunshine Boys*), and the original movies (*The Out-of-Towners*, *Murder by Death*). But with the exception of Richard Dreyfus' stereotypically queer Richard the III in *The Goodbye Girl*, which was a directorial choice, we could go to enjoy Simon's often hilarious works without fear of being bashed.

Thought of as America's most successful modern playwright, Simon could not help but have a major impact on our own writers, and not just structure-wise. He was one of the first to fight the "Jew taboo," as playwright Bill (As Is) Hoffman notes: "You have to understand when Simon was growing up, his relatives were all being murdered in Europe, and it was Jewish people who were especially hard on other Jewish people. They didn't want to be seen as too Jewish because they were really frightened for their lives. It can't be overestimated what a pressure this was. In very much the same way, hatred against gays became internalized, and the greatest anti-gay monitors became gays themselves. The same thing happened where each Jew was turned into a Jew-hater by an anti-Jewish society. To assert any kind of Jewishness on stage was a heroic act in those days."

## Simon says

The bespectacled Simon, who has just flown in to Manhattan to promote his new film *The Odd Couple II*, nods comfortably in a big chair in Paramount's offices. "I didn't do it [write explicitly Jewish characters] at first because I had a producer who always said we were trying to attract 'the carriage trade,' meaning wealthy people from Park Avenue. Even though the people in my mind were Jewish, they didn't have Jewish names. In *The Odd Couple*, are Oscar and Felix Jewish? In my mind, Oscar was and Felix wasn't. It wasn't until a critic pointed it out. He said, 'If your characters are Jewish, why don't you say it?' I



Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Neil Simon

finally did."

But are Felix and Oscar even a little gay? There's Felix's extreme neatness and, especially in this sequel, the two men's love for each other, and their eventual preference for each other's company. It's like a long, difficult marriage between two members of a gay seniors' group.

"It was inspired by my brother and a friend of his named Roy Gerber. They both got divorced around the same time, so they decided to room together and save money because they had alimony to pay. Then they went a step further. Well, instead of taking girls out to dinner, why don't we cook here and we'll save more money. So my brother was the cook, and Roy was kind of lackadaisical.

Sidney: I have never hidden behind doors, but I am discreet.

Diana: Discreet? You did everything but lick his artichoke.

By the end of the act, the two again declare their love for each other.

Sidney: I am always here for you, Diana.

Diana: My friendly filling station. Why don't you stick to your own kind, Sidney? If it's anything I hate, it's a bisexual homosexual. Or is it the other way around?

Sidney: It works either way.

Diana: Sidney! Jesus Christ, Sidney, I love you so much.

Sidney: I know that ...

This sweet and bitchy relationship was often dropped when the play toured small towns, but it was the highlight of the 1978 film



Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau in Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple II*.

Danny was very precise. He made the dinner for 7:15 and he'd ask, 'When are the girls coming?' Roy'd say, 'I don't know. 7:30, 8, 8:15.' Danny would get furious because his dinner would get ruined ... Danny, by the way, has shared in the profits of it all these years, which he deserves, I think."

## Pick-up at the Oscars

Well, so much for projected homosexuality. But in his 1976 play *California Suite*, Simon created a hit show about four couples who stay at the Beverly Hills Hotel. One pair, a British thespian nominated for a Best Actress Oscar and her gay antique-dealing spouse, show up for the ceremony. She loses and gets drunk, and he picks up a future date.

Diana: Adam — wasn't that his name? Adam, the first man. ... Not very appropriate for you, is it? ... He did look very Californian, I thought. Sort of a ballsy Doris Day.

Sidney: Oh, Christ, Diana, come off it. We keep up a front for everyone else, why can't we do it for ourselves?

Diana: You mean lie to each other that we're perfectly well-mated? A closet couple — is that what we are, Sidney?

version starring Michael Caine and Maggie Smith, who won an Oscar for her part.

## Never a cheap shot

At the time, *Christopher Street's* Jack Hiemenz opined: "How refreshing, in a mass-entertainment movie, to find an actor of Michael Caine's eminence playing a homosexual who is appealing, intelligent, not a stereotype, yet able to deliver such lines as, 'If I had worn your dress, it would have hung properly!' (So far as I can recall, Neil Simon — amazingly, for a hetero commercial comic writer — has never taken any cheap shots at gays.)"

Why was Simon, who has said he has tried to avoid social issues in his plays, so pro-gay?

"When I said social issues, I think I meant political issues more than social," Simon says. "Because with political issues, you can't get the product out to coincide with the thing that's going on. Usually by the time you get that play out or the movie out, that political issue is of the past. It's amazing that *Primary Colors* is out right now. That happens once in a lifetime.

"But the thing with Michael

Caine in that role I thought was timeless in a way. Not completely timeless, because the gay community hadn't completely come out then. But I don't think that was the character's problem. I just think that was an interesting situation because I knew some people like that. He was gay. She was not. They had as good a marriage as they possibly could. I think they really loved each other, and he had

his other life, and she either put up with it or she didn't. But the fact that there was something unattainable there, and yet they still loved each other, is what I thought was really touching."

And it still is, even after Sidney gets to spout: "What a nasty streak you have when you drink ... Also when you eat and sit and walk." "You can't get more gay or more Neil Simon than that." ▼



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## A.C.T.'s 'Mary Stuart' Queens enmeshed

by Richard Dodds

It's easy to understand why Glenn Close and Meryl Streep have been talking about producing for themselves a film version of *Mary Stuart*. To find two powerful roles for women in the same vehicle is rare indeed. These two heavy-duty screen personalities could probably give Friedrich Schiller's often turgid historical melodrama the kick it needs for contemporary audiences.

*Mary Stuart*, first produced in Germany in 1800, was Schiller's greatest success, but the English-language theater has never fully warmed to the playwright. Schiller as an ersatz Shakespeare, and his plays as operas without the music are among the complaints heard against the playwright, despite his exalted reputation in Europe. The American Conservatory Theater wants to give *Mary Stuart* another chance, and even commissioned a new translation to address these perceived deficiencies. The results are mixed, but the heartening news is that the long evening grows more compelling in its final hour.

Schiller's great invention is an imagined meeting between Queen Elizabeth and her Catholic rival Mary, Queen of Scots. And it is from that point on that the plot's gears, set up in long-winded exposition, begin to mesh. A first act devoid of even subtle humor gives way to a second half rich in the ironies and personalities of politics.

### No spin

The new translation by Michael Feingold, a theater critic at the *Village Voice*, is pointedly not an adaptation. There is no discernible contemporary spin given to the dialogue, situations, or attitudes. The language remains thick and stylized, and director Carey Perloff is in concert with those qualities in a sometimes elegant, sometimes static



Caroline Lagerfelt and Marco Barricelli in A.C.T.'s *Mary Stuart*.

staging on a stark set of massive pillars.

Although Elizabeth emerges as the victor in her long-running rivalry with Mary, hers is a complex personality fraught with insecurities and uncertainties. That makes her a more interesting character than the headstrong Mary, and Caroline Lagerfelt captures and highlights these nuances. The facets are less defined in Susan Gibney's otherwise passionate rendering of Mary, and the remaining cast of nobles, courtiers, and servants is ad-

mirably filled.

A.C.T. is offering a new variation on *Mary Stuart*, but one that takes few liberties with Schiller. It is an approach that remains true to its source even as it demands patience from the audience. The rewards the evening does provide suggest that more will be heard from *Mary Stuart*. ▼

*Mary Stuart* will run at the Geary Theater through April 26. Tickets are \$14-\$51. Call 749-2228.

## 'Shimmer' at the Magic Troubled youth

by Richard Dodds

Theatrical magic can be store bought, but all the expensive bells, whistles and chandeliers pale to what John O'Keefe conjures by himself on a bare stage. In *Shimmer*, now at the Magic Theatre, the performer-playwright returns to his signature piece, which so convincingly transports us to another place and time, where a teenager's imagination is often his only defense.

"This story is true," O'Keefe says at the start of the monologue. "Well, most of it..."

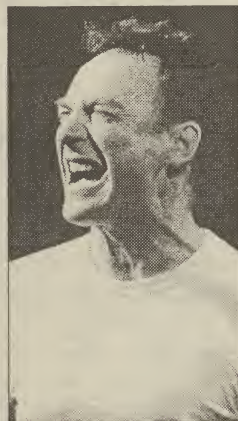
What is true is that O'Keefe, like the narrator in *Shimmer*, spent a good portion of his early years in an Iowa work farm for troubled youth. The time is the mid '50s, and the 15-year-old O'Keefe has been given the nickname Captain Spacey because of his dreams of becoming an astronaut. His best friend at the farm is a strange but imaginative fellow named Gary who argues that dirt

can think, and who develops a secret language that gives even cigarette smoke and radio static cosmic meanings. It is called *Shimmer*.

### Free at last

Through a series of memorable vignettes, O'Keefe uses his expressive voice and face to recreate life at the detention home, from encounters with bullies and sadistic supervisors, to his and Gary's elaborate plans to make a break for freedom.

O'Keefe's ability to take us into the point of view of wide-eyed teenagers becomes particularly sharp after the two friends hit the road in search of O'Keefe's mother in a nearby town. With a search party close on their heels, they hitch a ride from a cool dude in a Chevy with Buddy Holly on the radio, a guy who leads them "out of captivity like a rock 'n' roll Moses." The bright lights of a filling station near their destination pierce the murky night like "a distant galaxy."



John O'Keefe in *Shimmer*.

O'Keefe builds suspense as he and Gary madly search for his mother's house, and then gently and effectively brings us to the conclusion as dawn breaks on their first day of freedom. And you are there. ▼

*Shimmer* will run at the Magic Theatre through April 26. Tickets are \$15-\$26. Call 441-3687.



## INTERVIEW

# Karen Morrow aboard 'Show Boat' Having a ball

by Richard Dodds

Rosie O'Donnell got to sing a piece of "People" to Barbra Streisand on her TV show. That's nothing. I got to sing a bit of "I Had a Ball" to Karen Morrow.

It's OK if you don't know the name. Karen Morrow is actually famous for not being more famous. Ever since she belted out the title song in *I Had a Ball*, a 1964 Broadway musical starring Buddy Hackett, people have been predicting big things for this sunny Midwesterner with a mighty voice. But a promised recording deal never materialized, her subsequent Broadway shows were also-rans, and musical tastes moved away from the kind of voice that had once been heralded as the next Merman.

As it turns out, *I Had a Ball* was one of the first Broadway shows I saw, thanks to my father, who was a Buddy Hackett fan. This brassy, gaudy, low-ball musical comedy helped convince me that my future would have something to do with the theater, much to the chagrin of my father. And it was on that night at the theater that I became a lifelong Karen Morrow fan. I was 13.

"So was I," Morrow shot back when I shared my little tale.

And when I told her I also saw her second Broadway show, the short-lived *A Joyful Noise* starring John Raitt, she asked, "Why did you do that?"

Morrow was funny and friendly and direct on the phone from San Antonio, where the touring production of *Show Boat* was packing up for its move to San Francisco. In a stroke of ironic casting, this cheery performer with a clarion voice is cast as one of the musical theater's biggest sourpusses, who gets to sing only one quiet ballad. Morrow is playing Parthy, who, as the shrewish wife of the happy-go-lucky Cap'n Andy, could drive flies to vinegar.

Does Morrow have to fight to suppress her sunny disposition? "Oh, I do. I really want to play Cap'n Andy desperately," she said in a voice not far from the "You betcha" accents of *Fargo*.

Tom Bosley, from TV's *Happy Days*, is playing Cap'n Andy, who heads up a traveling troupe of performers aboard the Cotton Blossom. "The sorer I get," Morrow said, "the more Tom can make fun of me onstage, and he just gets huge laughs when he does things behind my back. We truly are the Bickersons, and I set him up shamelessly."

## Wrapper rustling

Morrow's one song is "Why Do I Love You?" which her character sings in a rare soft moment to her new granddaughter. "It's very sweet," Morrow said, "but it's at the top of the second Act, when people are still coming back from having a drink or from the john, and with the candy wrappers, and they're still coughing. But it makes me laugh, because there's nothing we can do about it."

Morrow does get to offer a short reprise of the tune. "They want me to sing it louder. And I said, 'Are you sure? I don't want to sound like Ethel Merman.' And they said, 'We need to see Parthy's joy and exuberance.' But I also think they need to cover the sound of them changing the set."

At this point in her life and ca-

reer, Morrow is quite content to stay aboard *Show Boat*. She's been with the tour for a year, recently reupped for another six months, and wouldn't mind staying on beyond that.

"I am so grateful I cannot tell you," she said. "Listen, I'm in my upper middle age, and there are so few roles for us. And to work in a first-class production, to be in a Hal Prince show, is very different than anything else. It makes me feel very good. And I've found out that you can sing a tune or two, still get second-to-last bow at the curtain call, get your name above the title, and get paid nicely. The only other place I could make this kind of money would be in a series, and there's nobody asking me to do a series these days."

## Leaving Des Moines

Morrow, a product of Des Moines, Iowa, knew she had a voice from the time she was 3. But she didn't know what to do with it until she was offered the comic lead in a college production of *Brigadoon*. "I went, 'Oh, that's it.'" Next stop was Milwaukee, where she taught school by day and did theater at night. "I knew this drummer who had a car who was going to New York, and I said, 'This is it.' And when I got there, I immediately got an Off-Broadway show, which was a miracle."

When she landed the female lead in *I Had a Ball*, a big Broadway musical that gave her voice a major showcase, she figured her career was in high gear. But there were bumps ahead.

"I think there was seven newspapers in New York at the time, and six out of the seven just categorically said, 'This stinks.' But Buddy Hackett starting doing his nightclub act after the curtain call, and he would have his buddies like Steve Lawrence and Sammy Davis come over from their shows. So people started buying tickets because of that."

"But Buddy got tired, and one day he came in with a broken leg. Now we don't know if it really was broken, but he sure was there with a big cast on his leg, and he said, 'This is it. We're closing today.' But I still have to be grateful to him, because he gave us six months of work we probably wouldn't have gotten."

Unfortunately, *I Had a Ball* turned out to be one of Morrow's longer Broadway runs, and she jokes about being known as "the Queen of the Flops." She finally headed to Hollywood and found work in such series as *Night Court*, *Trapper John, M.D.*, and *Murder, She Wrote*.

"And then, foolish me, I would go off and do summer stock instead of doing Vegas, as I was asked to do," she said. "But no, I wanted to do *Oliver!* I wanted to do *Oklahoma!*"

## The full Sweeney

Morrow figures she has done 64 different musicals, from the murderous Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd* to Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes*. "I still haven't done *Mame*," she said. "That's about it."

No *Mame*, and no marriage, either. "Isn't that odd?" she said. "I've sort of been itinerant. Someone asked me last night, 'Haven't you ever been married?' I said, 'No, but I've practiced a lot.'"

Morrow claims no regrets and harbors few ambitions. "I've done a lot. I work all the time. I have



Karen Morrow in *Show Boat*.

wonderful friends," she said. "I have no ambitions except to look out my window and see nice pretty things, and get in a nice car and drive to the ocean. And if I can just keep earning enough money to do that ..."

Her time with *Show Boat* has done wonders for her bank account, and she's thinking about a treat at the end of the tour. "There are one of three things I can have at the end of this with the money I've saved," Morrow said. "I can either get a new car, a face-lift, or make a CD of my own, because they all cost about the same."

Remarkably, Morrow has never recorded her own album, and I tell her that I cast my vote for the CD. "But I don't know who would buy it," she said.

"I would," I said.

"I'll give you one."

It's a deal. I've been singing *I Had a Ball* in the shower for more than 30 years, and it's time for some new Morrow in my repertoire.

And then I belt the song's opening lyric: "Do you see that cloud up there with the number 9 ..."

Karen Morrow laughed, and I'm on Cloud 9. ▼

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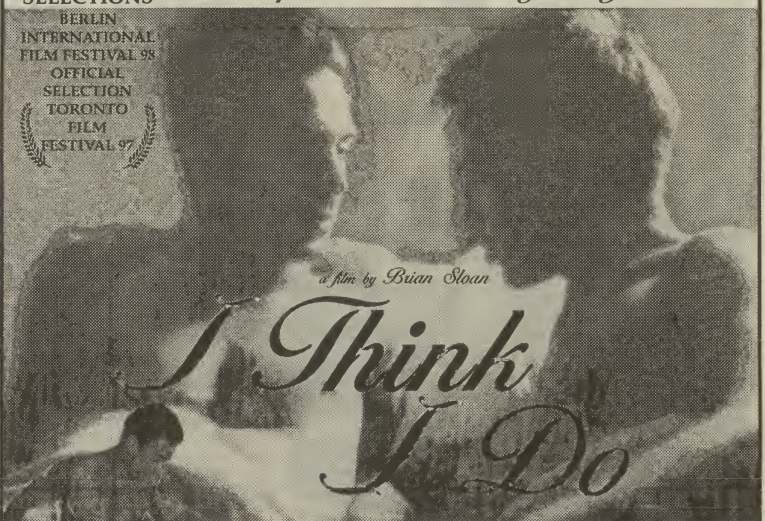
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# 'Moon Over Broadway' at the Roxie Moonshine

by Matthew Kennedy

Anyone who reveled in *Noises Off*, the riotous play of backstage missteps, and *Waiting for Guffman*, the faux documentary of regional theater,

will find pleasures in the new film *Moon Over Broadway*. But unlike those other dissections of theatrical travails, this one's for real. Husband-and-wife documentary filmmakers D. A. Pennebaker and Chris Hegedus (*The War Room*) were given the decided honor of

filming the making of *Moon Over Buffalo*, the 1995 Broadway farce starring Carol Burnett and Philip Bosco. By the time this spiffy documentary rolls its final credit, a viewer may conclude that the differences between small-town theater and the Great White Way are largely budgetary.

After much union negotiating, Pennebaker and Hegedus were allowed to turn their camera on the most intimate of moments. They sneak in and out of production meetings, rehearsals, out-of-town tryouts, and performances with impish glee. Their choices are shrewd to perfection. They resist imposed commentary, music, and all other intrusions. They know this ethnography need not be tarted up with excess production. We are treated to a Woody Allenesque cavalcade of voiced insecurities, sprinkled with pithy asides on Andrew Lloyd Weber, Paul Rudnick, and the great French farceur Georges Feydeau.

What may not have been obvious in the filmed moment becomes crystal clear under sly editing and camerawork. This is one unflattering exposé — no one escapes without their vanity and neuroses on full display. Director Tom Moore is the weary conciliator not fully up to the task of containing Burnett and Bosco's stage antics. Bosco rants about a compromise to his "art" that is laughably deluded and pompous. A minor ingenue (Kate Miller) but-tonholes a producer to insist that she get a more attractive front-of-the-theater blowup photo. The camera lights on the offending image, and we are left to conclude that it is indeed as complimentary as they come without significant airbrushing.

## A star is reborn

Burnett doesn't escape the documentary's scrutiny. As the



Philip Bosco and Carol Burnett in *Moon Over Broadway*.

undisputed star, the one the audience comes to see, she is more than aware of her burden. This was her Broadway return after 30 years, and she was quite frankly terrified. She miffs her lines, gropes for characterization, and falls back on her TV variety show tricks. And Burnett is soon once with her gifts to the cast and her multiple air kisses, but what of genuine feeling? Did anyone notice that her many "I love you" proclamations keep her supplicants ever-ready to make the Star shine?

Still, Burnett is no monster. She is a good old-fashioned trouper when some stage machinery malfunctions and the show grinds to a halt. She stands in front of the curtain, asks the crew to "bump up the lights," and conducts a Q & A, just like her old TV days. The audience eats it up like so much figgy pudding. And once the show is in full swing, she appears to be having a great time with pratfalls, slamming doors, and an airborne wig.

Less likable is the playwright Ken Ludwig. *Moon Over Buffalo* is a no-brainer about an overaged bargain-basement Lunt and Fontaine still dreaming of that big break. In the best tradition of vaudeville, Ludwig's job is to appropriate shtick. Plot and charac-

ter are secondary, as he freely asks for the cast's input when his creative well runs dry. We are then shown a shell-shocked troupe getting joke rewrites at the eleventh hour. At the New York opening, Ludwig glad-hands celebs Carroll O'Connor and Matthew Broderick in the lobby, then proclaims that *Moon Over Buffalo* rests on his talent. It's a spectacle of self-promotion even Eve Harrington would applaud.

After staged readings, dress rehearsals, and previews, *Moon Over Buffalo* opens in New York at the Martin Beck Theater to tepid notices. In a particularly revealing exchange, producers vote to run a full-page ad in the *New York Times* filled with carefully diced reviews proclaiming it to be a smash. Word-of-mouth and diehard Burnett fans contribute to swelling lines, and *Buffalo* runs nearly a year on Broadway, followed by profitable international touring productions. Credit Pennebaker and Hegedus for a fun and smart glimpse at the process. Now we know just how delicate the juggling game of success and failure can be. ▼

*Moon Over Broadway* plays April 10-23 at the Roxie, 3117 16th St. Call 863-1087.

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## Warhol movies at SF Cinematheque Full-blown Andy

by Gary Morris

For most people, the quintessential "Andy Warhol film" is *Trash*, or perhaps *Heat*, or maybe *Bad*, or even the 3-D versions of *Dracula* or *Frankenstein* that bear his name. But these are all in fact Paul Morrissey's films; Warhol had nothing to do with them besides adding his name to boost the box-office. True Warhol films are works like *Chelsea Girls* and *Empire*, *Bikeboy*, and *Blow Job*, or in this most recent revival, *Restaurant* and *Screen Test #2*. Morrissey and Warhol have a certain campiness in common, but there's ultimately very little resemblance between a commercially-minded film like *Trash* and any of the early Warhols, whose sheer unmarketability are one of their themes.

Warhol himself called his early films no more than "a way of passing the time," and he was so dismissive of convention that he'd sometimes continue to "shoot" scenes even without film in the camera. Such attitudes make it tempting to dismiss the work, much of it unseen in years and



A still from Warhol's *Screen Test #2*, from 1965.

some of it never seen, as perverse and pointless. Even today, audiences usually storm the exits on the rare occasion when a grueling work like *Empire*, an eight-hour static image of the Empire State Building, is shown.

Warhol's high standing as a visual artist and cultural icon has overshadowed his radical work in the cinema, but the recent emergence of many of his early films

may change some of that. *Restaurant* (1965) — not to be confused with *Nude Restaurant* — shows Warhol's sensibility in full flower. The film opens with the barest of establishing shots, a brief glimpse of a bunch of prattling partygoers at a restaurant. Instantly the scene switches to an image beloved by the Academy, an artful still life of objects on a table — sil-

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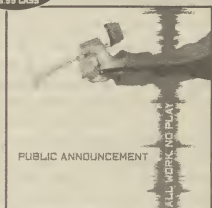


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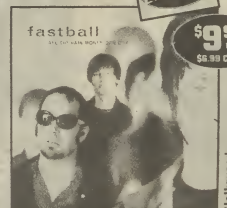
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## San Francisco Ballet Othello lite

by Stephanie von Buchau

You have to hand it to the San Francisco Ballet and American Ballet Theatre. Seeking to expand the full-length repertoire, they jointly spent nearly \$1 million to create from scratch—including a commissioned score from film composer Elliot Goldenthal—an evening-long narrative ballet based on *Othello*, the Moor of Venice.

The result, seen last week at the War Memorial Opera House, is an impressively colorful crowd-pleaser, short, swift and punchy. It is not, however, even slightly moving or expressive. Though pretending to present modern, radical choreography, this *Othello* actually hews conservatively to the 19th-century narrative ballet model. An efficient "entertainment," it offers little of Shakespeare's rueful philosophy, none of Verdi's romantic tenderness,

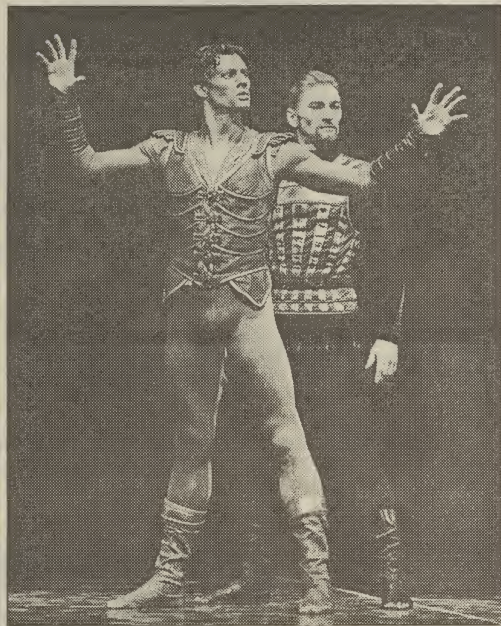
and not even a scintilla of José Limón's psychological acuity—just to name three previous *Othello* creators of genius.

Lar Lubovitch's frenetic choreography doesn't seem to be about innocence destroyed by evil so much as about that nasty social ill of the 90s—spousal abuse. Iago's hapless wife, Emilia, apparently finds the slapping, pushing, kicking, and strangleholds erotic, as she keeps spreading her legs in response.

That's about as sexy as this *Othello* gets, unless you respond to the two Iago-Othello duets as homoeroticism, which, in Lubovitch's sweaty modern dance style, they well could be. One of the most poignant love stories in classical literature has been reduced to a strenuous sociological tract in which the Moor's insecurity about his inability to hold the love of his beautiful Venetian wife has been subsumed into the simplistic, racist idea that a black African man goes native when he thinks he's been betrayed.

### Thick and truculent

Not that you would have gleaned that idea from the San Francisco Ballet's opening night cast. *Othello* was danced by Yuri Possokhov, a thick, truculent Russian whose charms are lost on me, though many consider him the company's resident hunk. Looking a little silly in orangey Max Factor, Possokhov's *Othello* was no jive turkey like actor Lau-



Yuri Possokhov as Othello and David Palmer as Iago.

rence Olivier, no closet psychotic like tenor James McCracken, not even a corporate cold fish like Plácido Domingo—just to name three of the century's most celebrated *Othellos*. Possokhov barely acknowledged his radiant bride (Yuan Yuan Tan), went bonkers clumsily as his classical training clashed with Lubovitch's elemental choreography, and didn't kill himself soon enough for me.

The element of racism in the concept became obvious when Desmond Richardson danced the role a few days later. This handsome American Ballet Theatre dancer, who originated *Othello* at the world premiere in New York last May, is not classically trained, which means that he needn't untaw any frozen body parts to dance Lubovitch's kinetic modern style. When he finally loses his cool, the pelvis-centered anguish as he fetishizes Desdemona's handkerchief was as truly terrifying as it was grotesquely animalistic.

The problem with this approach is that whatever Shakespeare thought, and however po-

litically correct it is today to see *Othello* as a black outsider in a racist white world, there is that inconvenient fact that Moors are not black African natives but Muslim tribesmen of the Caucasian race (mixed Arab and Berber) from North Africa. It seems unfortunate that, given his charismatic leading man, Lubovitch took the racial line of least resistance in explaining *Othello*'s jealousy, and it is a mixed blessing that Richardson is able to embody this shallow concept with such physical eloquence. Still, trashy choreography aside, if you saw Richardson dance, you had a major thrill.

All ballet should have its impetus in music, and the commissioned score for this *Othello* is partly what keeps the work on such a banal level. Goldenthal pretends to an "homage" to past composers. Rip-off is the word that actually comes to mind. The storm on Cyprus is vaguely Veridian. The *Othello*-Desdemona love theme is distinctly Mahlerian. The ensemble rhythms are

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# Super Vixens rule

D'Arcy Drollinger's 'Above & Beyond the Valley of the Ultra Showgirls'

by John Blanco

For almost 10 years now, D'Arcy Drollinger has been a formidable presence on the fringes of San Francisco's music and theater communities, first with his '70s-obsessed rock 'n' roll band Enrique, and then with his *Brite Sleep* musical theater trilogy — *The Cereal Killers*, *The Possession of Mrs. Jones*, and *Suburbia 3000*. Now Drollinger has combined his two loves into his latest project, the kitschy rock musical *Above and Beyond the Valley of the Ultra Showgirls*, which is being restaged at the Transmission Theatre this month after a successful run at a variety of local clubs last fall.

In a post-rehearsal interview last week at a Polk Street cafe, Drollinger told me that the goal of this show was to hoodwink unsuspecting rock 'n' roll clubgoers into experiencing musical theater. "What we wanted to do was to jump up onstage and start playing in a rock club, where there are a lot of people who don't go see theater," explains Drollinger. "We would play a couple of songs as this all-girl rock band, and then gradually the plot would unfold. We performed at some clubs where people were a little stunned at first to hear all of this dialogue in the middle of what they thought was a rock show. But by the end, they were completely won over."

It's not surprising that the show has won over even musical theater neophytes and non-fans. *Above and Beyond the Valley of the Ultra Showgirls*, written by Drollinger and his Enrique bandmates, is a hilarious 75 or so minutes of rock 'n' roll cheese combined with just enough tawdry narrative to string the tunes together. The story follows members of the all-girl rock band Super Vixen — Chablis (Drollinger), Chardonnay (Jason Mecier), and Gewurtztraminer (Laura LaBleu) — as they use their glamour-length talons to claw their way to the top of the music world. Unfortunately, only Gewurtztraminer, who is pres-

sured to go solo by sleazy "Warmer Sisters" record executive Richard Face (Adam Ansell), makes it big, which sends her discarded bandmates into a tailspin of liquor, pills, prostitution, murder, sex-change operations, and alien abductions.

Like Ann Magnuson's *Luv Show*, *Above and Beyond the Valley of the Ultra Showgirls* is a satirical take on the proverbial show business rise and fall. But what makes *Ultra Showgirls* so much fun is that it concentrates far more on the fall than the rise of the characters. I asked Drollinger why he felt audiences love watching pitiful Chablis and Chardonnay wallow in their misery and degradation. "Let's face it," Drollinger says, "audiences love to see drag queens fall down and be a mess. And you gotta milk it when you're down there. I mean, people like to laugh at the suffering of others. If you want a successful comedy, suffer a lot for the people."

## Bosomy band

The oft-suffering Super Vixen call to mind the Carrie Nations, the bosomy all-girl band that experiences more than its share of trauma in Russ Meyer's camp masterwork *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls*. In their combination of soft-core sex, cartoonish violence, and melodramatic plotting, *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls* and *Showgirls* are the obvious cinematic influences on Drollinger's show. Being more of a fan of *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls* than *Showgirls*, I suggested to Drollinger that writer Roger Ebert consciously fashioned *Dolls* as satire, whereas *Showgirls* screenwriter Joe Eszterhas didn't seem to be in on his own jokes.

"I don't think so," asserts Drollinger. "Yes, *Showgirls* was a total accident, but I think *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls* was some sort of accident, too. Both films are this weird kind of genius."

A highlight of *Above and Beyond the Valley of the Ultra Showgirls* is the howlin' rendition of "Sweet Talkin' Candy Man," a song from the Meyer film, belted by Super Vixen groupie Crystal



D'Arcy Drollinger, Laura LeBleu, and Jason Mecier in *Above and Beyond the Valley of the Ultra Showgirls*.

Anderson (Leigh "Elvis Herselvis" Crow). The rest of the show's songs, however, are originals that recall trashy girl groups past and present, and boast great titles like "Medicine (Pills, Booze, Yeah!)" and "I Just Screwed the Man That Broke Up Our Band." "The Super Vixen sound, to me, is a mixture of Hole and the Runaways, with a little Barbie and the Rockers and Jem and the Holograms thrown

in," says Drollinger.

## Tiffany fringe

Like the group's sound, the Super Vixen look — mindresses, stiletto mules, bad perms and a fringed top that might've last been worn by Tiffany on her 1987 world tour — is a humorously clashing patchwork of styles and eras. "In doing a play, you usually have costumes that the costume

person gives you," explains Drollinger. "And in doing Enrique, we always wore matching outfits. But for this show, we all found our own clothes, and in a way, found the identities of our characters through those clothes."

At the end of the *Ultra Showgirls* run last fall, Drollinger intended to put the show behind him and start a new project. It only made sense to move on, considering that the play's original Gerwurtztraminer, Enrique veteran Kathy Fenker, had moved to New York. But Drollinger found it hard to let go of his character. He didn't understand why he couldn't shake Chablis until recently, when he realized that in her he had found his drag alter-ego.

"Whenever I dress up in drag for Trannyshack or parties or whatever," says Drollinger, "I can see this character start to come out. This is a character that is very real to me. I mean, obviously, I'm not a drug addict or a whore [laughs]. But what I mean is that Chablis feels like a character that I've been slowly creating for all these years without ever realizing it." ▼

*Above and Beyond the Valley of the Ultra Showgirls* opens tonight, April 9, at the Transmission Theatre, 314 11th St., and continues Thursday nights in April. For more information, call 861-6906.

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# 'Gay gene' discoverer Dean Hamer

## Why genes matter

by Bob Roehr

Why is each person unique? Is it because of genes, home life, or a complex mix of factors? Better answers are starting to emerge as scientists unwrap the double helix strands of our DNA.

Dean Hamer is at the forefront of this process. The 46-year-old NIH researcher has already discovered a region of DNA which helps determine sexual orientation. And he has isolated individual genes for thrillseeking, anxiety, and the ability to stop smoking.

Now he has written *Living With Our Genes: Why They Matter More Than You Think* (Doubleday, \$22.95) to educate and share the excitement he feels

about these developments.

Hamer is typically exuberant the day we meet at his home, a huge red-brick Victorian townhouse less than a mile from the White House. A previous owner had gutted the place and left a soaring 50-foot atrium at its center. A winding modern staircase and flying bridges connect rooms at every level.

"Oh god, I'd love to own this place," he thought the first time he wandered through the front door. "I'm just a city kind of guy," he says, "and I love modern stuff." Within a year it was his. An early spring sun bounces through the space, off avant-garde furniture set next to a classical marble fireplace.

What strikes you most about Hamer is a broad, toothy grin. It seems to linger after other aspects

of him have faded, much like the Cheshire Cat that Alice encountered in Wonderland. And like that felicitous feline, he is an avatar of wit and common sense.

Genes are possibilities, not destiny, he explains. "Those who accomplish the most — measured in money, intelligence, skill, happiness, or love — are the ones who make the most of their genetic inheritance."

### Piece of a puzzle

In 1993 Hamer published a landmark study that identified a region of genes, Xq28, which influences sexual orientation. He calls it a single piece of a complicated puzzle, not a complete explanation for why some men are gay. There has been much "misunderstanding of the science. It's a mistake to try to use biological



Dean Hamer, NIH researcher and discoverer of the "gay gene."

data to form or justify social or political policy," he says, shaking his head. "And it has taken me a while to be educated in that regard."

That paper earned Hamer the undying enmity of the Religious Right. "Do a Web search, and 80 percent of the references to my work will be from groups like the Family Research Council." He delights in recounting how one group tried to argue against it by saying that evolution would have removed gay genes from society. "The problem was, because they were fundamentalist, they couldn't use the word or believe in evolution."

He playfully suggests that the gay male gene is helping to perpetuate the species by cranking out designers, hair stylists, and other purveyors of beauty to make women more attractive and "better breeders." He has published the theory, "but not quite in those terms, not quite so stereotypically."

Many people have been surprised by research indicating that homosexuality in male and females is controlled by different factors. But not Hamer. Men and women are different, he says. "It is very culturally invariant, you see the same things in primitive tribes. It is universal because it is part of our genetic code." And it is across species.

"So it doesn't surprise me at all that same-sex attraction in men has very different roots than same-sex attraction in women. I almost would have predicted that. In men, it is more hard-wired genetically. In a female, it seems to be less genetic and more influenced by other factors, including the environment."

"There is nothing like having a kid to make you realize sex differences are not taught to people." He draws on his own experience as father to a 12-year-old daughter. Her moms gave her "every possible encouragement to be sex neutral. Play with a truck, honey, let's kick the soccer ball around. And she is like, 'I want to play tea with my dolls.'"

"That was not from parenting, that was from her. That's just the way she is... Even better than having one kid is having two kids, because you realize that you are not omnipotent in developing the kids. There is a lot that is given."

He laments that so little research is conducted on sex. Both the product and the producers are

heavily stigmatized. "It's kind of sad. Biologically, it is the most important drive, to pass on your genes." Yet very little work is done on the subject.

### Knowledge is power

"Genes control certain aspects of brain chemistry, which in turn influence how we perceive the world and react to that information," writes Hamer. They "have a role in the experience we seek, pushing us towards certain environments that will shape our behavior."

He believes it is "good for people to know where behavior comes from, good to know what can be changed, what can't be changed." Now people go to the psychiatrist, but "eventually we will be able to look at a person's DNA and say, you have lack of serotonin-type depression, or you have too much dopamine alcoholism. It may take years of therapy to help the person, but at least you'll know more of what the roots of the problem are to begin with."

Gene-based diagnostics are already beginning to show up in the doctor's office. Designer psychiatric drugs will come later, replacing current trial-and-error methods of treatment. But gene therapy per se will likely be reserved for "really extreme, debilitating genetic diseases, especially those caused by a single gene."

Hamer doesn't see much of a future in human cloning. "Anybody who wants to clone themselves obviously is a less-than-perfect individual, because they must be really narcissistic." And human clones will be like identical twins, distinct individuals with legal rights just like everybody else.

Besides, you wouldn't want a clone for body parts, that would just duplicate your imperfections. You'd want to improve on it. "I would add about three inches," he says with that grin. "I'd increase my IQ by a few points, take away the bitterness gene, or whatever. Other than that, I'm pretty perfect."

He does think that it is good we are having "conversations about the ethics of technology." But he is wary of legislation that might try to control research. "It is fine to say that we shouldn't discriminate against people based on their genotypes, but we have to make sure that doesn't preclude helping people based on their genotypes, also." ▼

Bob Roehr

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'In the Life' on PBS

## Around the world in 58 minutes

by Victoria A. Brownworth

*In the Life*, the popular bi-monthly PBS TV magazine on lesbian and gay life presented by Thirteen/WNET in New York, has compiled an hour-long episode which *In the Life* Media calls its "most ambitious to date." The episode aired April 8 in San Francisco and is to air April 26 in Los Angeles, but, like most episodes in the series, it will repeat during the summer, in case you missed it on the first run. And this is an episode not to be missed.

Unlike other queer TV, *In the Life*, produced by Katherine Linton, always strives for a multicultural and multigendered approach to lesbian and gay life. This is usually what makes the show most compelling, even for jaded activist types like myself, since *In the Life* is otherwise a typical child of PBS — earnest, well-meaning, informative and a bit dull. However, like every episode of the show, this "global episode" is somewhat uneven and suffers from the limitations of the magazine format. Call this *Around the World in 58 Minutes*. Not quite global, but at least it takes the viewer very much outside the unreal American milieu of *Ellen* and celebrity queers. Despite the unevenness, the episode is worthwhile, if only to get the viewer to realize just how evolved (if completely skewed) the American lesbian and gay movement is.

Nothing will drive that point home with more impact than the two best segments in the show: one on gay and lesbian activism in China and Hong Kong, and one on class struggles, feminism and lesbian consciousness in the Philippines. Other segments include a piece on a multiethnic art show in Britain (we assume London, England, but it's never clarified, which is annoying, especially given the politics of people in Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, all technically Britain); a segment on queer life in Brazil (it's more than just Carnival); an overview of the



*In the Life* host Katherine Linton, producer Janet Baus, and a local Brazilian cameraman on location in Rio.

work of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC); a glimpse at changing laws in France, most importantly a domestic partnership law that would cover all lesbians and gay men throughout the country; and a preview of Gay Games 1998 in Amsterdam, a city many consider the world's most enlightened queer culture.

## Problems in China

One of the most compelling arguments made by and intriguing stories told throughout this global episode is how lesbian and gay life differs according to the social structures, politics, and religiosity of an individual nation. Thus, the piece on Hong Kong and China focuses on how communism and the very strong culture of the Chinese heterosexual family — particularly with the one-child-per-family birth quota system — make life for lesbians and gay men extremely problematic. Queers are accepted by neither the state nor their families, and most women and men would rather live a totally constrained and closeted life than deal with ostracization from their families or from the culture at large. Early

ing movement, but as Roddy Shaw, editor of the queer publication *Horizons*, explains, getting the word out to lesbians and gay men is in itself a struggle.

Life in the Philippines is equally difficult, particularly for women, again because of social and cultural constraints. For the past five years, lesbian activism has been growing in the country, but viewers will be astonished by the limitations of the struggle. For example, it was only last year that the first employment discrimination lawsuit based on sexual orientation was filed in the country. It was also the first time an academic paper on the position of lesbians in Philippine society was published. A far cry from the comfortable choices many lesbians enjoy in the U.S.

Economics and class position have a defining impact on how much women can achieve in the Philippines, a nation that is 85 percent Catholic, and where women's roles are defined by family and church, a point at which lesbians of all classes find a common meeting ground.

The other pieces in this episode explore the range of diversity of global political struggle, but none so compellingly as these two. Nevertheless, this episode works well as an introduction to lesbian and gay rights struggles in cultures vastly different from our own. It will leave most viewers both more appreciative of the gains already achieved by queers in the U.S. and, one hopes, more determined to get beyond the current culture of celebrity, and more deeply involved in creating real legal and social change for lesbians and gay men. ▼

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## Othello

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out of Prokofiev's bottom drawer, with none of *Romeo and Juliet*'s luscious tunes to justify the noise. Percussive, rhythmically minimalist — you get tired of the second act tarantella long before the act is over — and orchestrated with dubious taste (saxophones? New Orleans jazz in Renaissance Italy?), this is music as busy and inconsequential as the choreography.

## Faux-Botticelli

Then we have that expensive production. George Tsypin's fractured-glass settings are interesting and fluid. Ann Hould-Ward's costumes are not. A company used to the gorgeous, danceable dresses of the late Jens-Jacob Worsaae must have winced at the faux-Botticelli chiffon foisted on Desdemona. The designer calls it "medieval" (sorry, lady, wrong period), but I call a dress that pooches over the ballerina's abdomen, making her look pregnant, an abomination.

Then there is the balmy idea of having Othello bare his "naked soul" by running around much of the last two acts in flesh-colored tights and little else. I enjoy

bulging thighs and bubble butts as much as the next balletomane, but if you spend the crucial part of what should be a psychological tragedy wondering just how many boxes of Kleenex are stuffed in that cantaloupe-sized dance belt, a necessary part of the emotional experience has been lost in favor of something more, shall we say ... mundane?

An immense subject, *Othello* has been trivialized with movie music, unconvincing motivations, and weak casting. Damian Smith, usually a reliable dancer, made a callow Iago; David Palmer's slinky villain was way too classy for this project. Julia Adam and Sabina Allemann were heroic in the thankless role of Emilia. I liked Claudia Alfieri's sweet, simple Desdemona better than Tan's; the Chinese ballerina is gorgeous, but too modern and sophisticated for this dumb bunny. Stephen Legate was the manic Cassio in both casts; he should get combat pay for all that work with no reward.

The audience seemed to love it all, rather more, I suspect, than they love real choreography such as Balanchine's sublime *Liebeslieder Walzer*. But then, nobody ever went broke underestimating the taste of the public. ▼

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# Heat

## Raging hormones, failed brakes

by Eileen Myles

My car seems okay. The tiny adjustment the mechanic made to the a/c switch on the carburetor has stopped the scary acceleration I'd been experiencing for almost a month. I spent the winter on Cape Cod—Provincetown—and I'd get on Route 6 for the weekly trip to Orleans to do my laundry (there's not a single laundromat in P-town), and maybe fifteen minutes into the ride, my Nissan Sentra would start jerking and shaking, finally of its own accord surging up to 65 and 75 miles an hour. I'd lift my foot off the pedal and it'd be climbing to 85. I watched the trees whip by, and I gazed at the other cars wondering if it looked as strange on the outside as it did in here—my car was driving me. I began to apply pressure on the brakes, eventually slowing down, but even in town, where the traffic on Commercial St. was often moving at a meditative 10 or 15 mph, I'd be riding the brake with my entire body weight.

One night I was coming back to New York, and I accidentally got off the main highway and found myself in Wareham, Mass. There, I encountered my first stoplight, and I did not. Well, I stopped more or less. I applied full force to the brake, and still my Nissan lightly tapped, maybe once or twice, a brand-new, shiny, anonymous-looking car occupied by what looked like a gang of high school girls with big hairdos, one of whom had definitely been given the car to drive to class in her senior year, and now some lunatic was bumping her from behind, not once, not twice, she insisted when I met them all at the police station in Wareham, but five times, and brutally, she insisted.

"How do you know," a girl in the back shrieked, clutching her neck.

"I don't see anything," said a cop we encountered in the parking lot. "Let me see your license and registration," the girl demanded, and politely I supplied it. It was dark out, and it was pretty late. I was still in Massachusetts.

But what does this have to do with lesbian mid-life? Well, I'm a poet, and nothing in the universe



Eileen Myles

happens alone. I don't like metaphor, but things lie next to each other pretty nicely, especially in real life. I'm 47 and, see, frequently I'm hot. "Are you hot?" I ask a friend, often my girlfriend, who is twenty-nine.

"No, I'm cold," she replies, and I go, "Huhn," and get quiet.

It's been happening for about a year, maybe two. It got clearer last spring, same time things started happening with my car. I'd be re-living some moment of embarrassment. The kind that brings a little heat to your face. I'm running on the stairmaster at the gym. I get hot too soon. It's a flat kind of heat, like wearing a polyester shirt in the summer. Somehow the air doesn't seem to get in. I haven't been exerting myself that much, so it doesn't make sense. The embarrassment goes further than it should, the blush lingers, and I've got to get up and walk around. Throw open the window. My body seems to be running without me like my car. We're hot.

### Back in the lot

"You don't understand," I said to the high school girls in the parking lot. "I didn't hit you."

"Yes, you did," said the girl behind the wheel. Her car was brand-new, god, did it shine.

"I had my entire weight on the brake. I was waving my hands at your car to explain my innocence. Didn't you see?"

"Oh sure," said the girl. "You

drove away."

I am thirty years older than this girl. I could be her mother. Despite my black glasses and my torn jeans and my older car (I'm cooler than her), I'm going through menopause. Actually, it's not menopause till you're done. I'm in perimenopause. Perio means surroundings. Like the hills surrounding the great change. Sometimes I go to parties in New York, and people tell me I'm the only woman in their forties they know. I've never dated women my age, never, so naturally I'm alienated from "their" bodies, i.e. my own.

"My foot was on the brake," I insisted.

"Your car shouldn't be on the road," the driver said.

"I'm driving home," I said to the girls from Wareham. "It's eleven o'clock. I live in New York."

"Do you have insurance?" she asked.

"Yes," I replied. She put her hand out.

### Hot in the mornings

It made me happy to think of my car wildly accelerating like me. Then it stopped for a while. It's November, and sometimes it's hot in the mornings so I kick the covers off. It's back. The mechanic on Lafayette said I shouldn't have any problems now. If you do, said Tom, throw it into neutral, and then turn the key like this, he said, nudging it away from the driver's body. It'll stop, he said, smiling at me. I should do that when I'm on the road? I asked. Yes, he nodded. When I'm in a slow lane. Well, yeah, he agreed. Now I have something to do. I'm growing fascinated, even comfortable with this raging hormonal shower, which every woman I talk to in her forties is going through; it's the flip-side of adolescence. When you haven't had a period in a whole year, then the storms recede. It's not like you get a new car. It's not like I did, I thought, patting the dash. ▼

Eileen Myles has a piece included in the show *All of Me* at New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom.

This series on gay midlife is curated by Robert Glück, whose most recent novel is *Margery Kempe (High Risk)*.

## Warhol films

◀ page 38

verware, a drink, a purse, lovingly captured by an unblinking camera. But Warhol undermines this classical motif by holding the shot interminably, with only an occasional hand moving at the edge of the frame and the relentless drone of mocking laughter and vague dialogue in the background.

Eventually the camera pulls back to show the full scene, with Factory rejects like Edie Sedgwick and Ondine carrying on like the seedy superstars they were, laughing and drinking and dishing. Warhol's amused indifference to a detail like clear sound makes their chatter a kind of absurdist white noise, occasionally punctuated by Edie's braying laugh and screams of phrases like "You're a pig!" The film's contemptuous treatment of these self-deluded, self-absorbed denizens implies a comically absurd world in a way that no nor-

mal narrative could, and puts Warhol in the same cultural space as weary modernists like Samuel Beckett.

### Brutal auditions

Screen Test #2, made the same year, has just two characters, but we see only one of them, and only in a single fuzzy head shot that comprises the entire film. The head belongs to drag queen Mario Montez, and her foil is an off-screen Ronald Tavel, who conducts this bizarre "screen test" by putting poor Mario through a brutal series of acting auditions. While the narcissistic Mario's attention continually wanders back to combing her cheap wig, Tavel insists, in his queenly voice, that she must do everything he says in order to become "a great star." This includes enacting a "lady of leisure," endlessly repeating the word "DI-AR-RHE-A" as if it were "the rain in Spain," pretending she has a bottle up her ass, portraying a "wild gypsy girl!" in a remake of

*Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and—in a camp apotheosis—pretending to be a "female geek."

Montez is surprisingly unfazed (perhaps because she's too busy thinking about her hair), even when Tavel begins screaming that her "geek" pretend to eat a live chicken: "You're a wild, savage, insane, demoniacal female geek! Eat it, you bitch! You wild bitch!" Tavel, who later founded the Ridiculous Theater Company, was a major presence on these early films, but this screamingly funny scene is surely one of his crowning moments.

The masterful Screen Test #2, to be shown with *Restaurant* for the first time on the West Coast, recalls Warhol's silkscreens and serial paintings in its doomed attempt to penetrate the landscape of the human face. But putting his concerns into motion through film, even in the narrow focus of an 80-minute head shot, allows Warhol literally to animate his at-

next page ▶



## BOOKS

# Notes from a gay Everyman

by Jim Nawrocki

*Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me & Other Trials From My Queer Life* by Michael Thomas Ford; Alyson Publications, \$10.95.

In the world of Michael Thomas Ford, the truth is not only stranger than fiction, it's much funnier. At least that's what he tells us in his introduction to *Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me*, his collection of "pictures of life as I see it." Ford, who has written over twenty books, including *The Voices of AIDS* and *OutSpoken*, also writes a syndicated humor column called "My Queer Life," and it is from this column that he has taken most of the essays that appear in this collection.

Reading the book, it's easy to imagine Ford on stage at some improv comedy club. He has the patter and breezy topicalism of a stand-up comic, and he can mine just about every topic he tackles for all of its comic possibilities. As his subject matter he takes on nearly everything: porn, shopping, Martha Stewart, and the mysteries of gay and straight psyches, among others. The essays are grouped into such categories as "Men and Other Obstacles to Happiness," "Adventures Among the Straight People," and "A Slightly Dented Childhood." In his treatment of these matters, Ford is invariably chatty and unabashedly self-deprecating.

In "Diary of a Would-be Porn Star," for example, he chronicles his porn-inspired attempts to cruise such gay male bastions as video stores, restrooms, and gym locker rooms. He seems to enjoy the lurid confession and the chance to portray himself as a kind of gay Woody Allen, stumbling into and out of sexual encounters with very little grace. As he works his way down his list of locations and routines, with little success, the reader can't help but wonder if Ford was really as diligent in his sexual forays as he would have us believe, or if he's embellishing his tales for the sake of a good laugh.

## Von Trapped

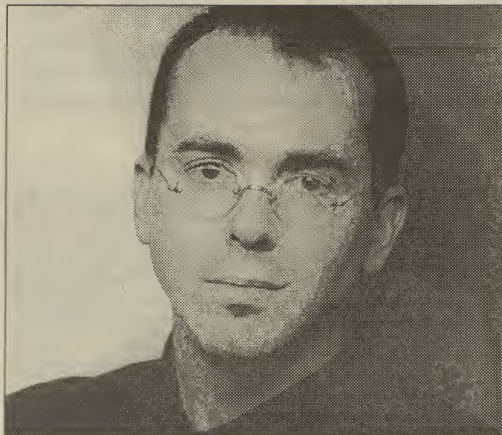
At times, Ford steers dangerously close to cliché. His discussions of dating and credit card debt, for example, seem a bit too familiar. Ford is better, and funnier, when he braves his way into truly autobiographical material. In "The Sound of Music," he con-

fesses, "I dare to stand in defiance of one of the most cherished of gay male traditions; I do not like musical shows." He goes on to support his assertion with a list of all the great musicals he's hated. But the funniest moment in the essay, and one of the best lines in the book, comes when he describes his childhood encounter with the surviving members of the Von Trapp family, who inspired *The Sound of Music*. For anyone who ever sat through that film wincing at the cheeky optimism of the singing Von Trapps, Ford's greeting to the aged Maria Von Trapp is likely to strike a chord (as it were).

Ford's persona throughout the essays is that of a gay man searching for love and fulfillment, blithely ignoring cold reality in favor of a passionately imagined fantasy world. In "How Alec Baldwin Ruined My Life," he discusses his obsession with the actor. With genuine devotion, Ford searches Baldwin's stage and screen appearances for traces of the homoerotic as he vainly waits for the handsome actor to come to his

senses and marry him. If nothing else, he can admire Baldwin's torso during the actor's turn as Stanley Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, or watch *The Hunt for Red October* on video.

If you haven't guessed it by now, there's nothing deep in *Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me*, and Ford never pretends that there is. He's out to entertain, and the essays in this collection (they could more appropriately be called monologues) are pleasant and undemanding. Ford's writing is conversational and easy on the mind. If there's any flaw in the collection, aside from the triteness of some of the entries, it's that the columnist's writing formula doesn't hold up well under repeated readings. Many of Ford's techniques seem to get old rather quickly. For example, several of the essays begin with short pronouncements meant to prompt humorous self-examination. Here's a string of them: "I do not like to shop," "I am not good at dating," "I don't like to have my picture taken." These aren't sprinkled throughout the book spar-



Author Michael Thomas Ford

ingly, and after reading several of them in a row, one begins to wish Ford's editor might have taken the time to refresh some of these pieces for book publication. These quibbles aside, though, Ford's

book is an engaging one. For those in search of a light read, one that can be picked up and sampled at random, *Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me* might make a good choice. ▼



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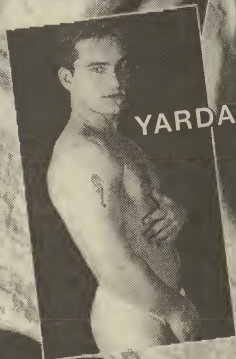
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## Warhol films

◀ previous page

tack on the constraints of classicism, logic, and sense. Montez is both pathetically petty and larger-than-life, self-dramatizing and self-deluded, controlled by an absurdly abusive unseen force in the form of the evil Tavel. This is a star vehicle pared to its essence, shorn of the plush trappings of story and set, investing Mario's smallest gestures with dazzling camp hauteur. ▼

Restaurant (33 min.) and Screen Test #2 (66 min.) West Coast premiere at SF Cinematheque's Warhol Rediscoveries on Sunday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m. at SF Art Institute, 800 Chestnut St. Admission is \$7. Call for information: 558-8129.



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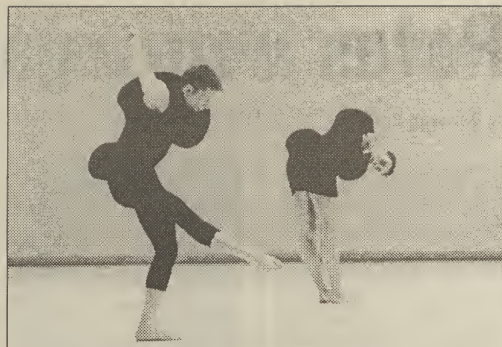
## Merce dance

◀ Arts cover

ever-flattering tie-dye unitards that show off every grand jete or extension in second position. The design of the set, *Global Village I-36* by the late John Cage, suggested wet leaf-stains on the sidewalk interrupted by long black vertical lines. The music was an appealing amalgamation of tinkling bells and percussion by Emanuel Dimas De Melo Pimenta.

As ever, the dancers ate up the space with huge reaching gestures and admirable rectitude. Cunningham's charges are not spontaneous or tentative — even an exploration in imbalance, where a dancer relies on someone else for support, is planned to precision. Lately, Cunningham has rediscovered arms, which for several seasons hung undervalued on his dancers as they executed impossibly complex feet and leg phrases. In *Windows*, all manner of arm and hand gestures enriched the visual and aural landscape.

*Pond Way*, given its United States premiere at Berkeley, was not fully satisfying. Certainly it was dressed differently, the dancers in flowing pants cut open at the inseam, and shirts of exposed midribs and sleeves open from the shoulders to the wrists. Roy Lichtenstein's backdrop, *Landscape with Boat*, used the newsprint photo dots characteristic of the artist, but its images were inspired by Edgar Degas' monotypes and pastels. Their varying size suggested a shoreline punctuated by a small one-man sailboat in the lower corner. But Brian Eno's score and the choice of movement were not distinct



Timothy Greenfield Sanders

Unusual designs by Rei Kawakubo in Merce Cunningham's *Scenario*.

enough to elevate this to Cunningham's best. Indeed, the flatness of the stage made me long for those deep, multidimensional in-the-round events that the company does so supremely.

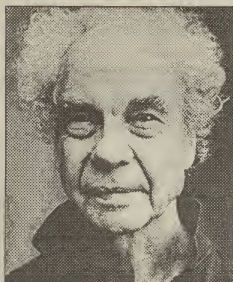
## Conversation piece

*Scenario*, making its West Coast premiere, was the talk of the evening. Comme des Garçons maven Rei Kawakubo was Cunningham's unlikely costume collaborator, and she made her presence known. *Scenario*'s initial effect is startling, and leaves the audience with little option but to laugh. Dressed in red, blue or green checks, the dancers entered in misshapen outfits that carry softened hunchbacks, bellies, and bustles. Changing to elegant black, they appeared as dancing jigsaw puzzle pieces. The effect could easily have been grotesque, but the CostCo-style hanging fluorescent lights and the pure-white back- and side-drops took any

rough edge off the unsightly and incongruous bulges.

*Scenario* has already earned plenty of commentary. It has the Cunningham imprimatur of exploration and unusual fun. Indeed, the sight of otherwise perfunctory Cunningham movements executed in such a way as to swallow limbs and stretch unflattering fabric provides no small amount of diversion. But Cunningham is not a kid with a new toy: the dance is fully realized with or without Kawakubo's contribution. And credit all involved for not succumbing to easy laughs with gigantic bellies bouncing into each other, and bubble butts rolling off the stage. When the novelty wore off, the dance became downright solemn. Takehisa Kosugi's music, something akin to electronic wind with a bit of the didgeridoo, did not provide levity. Save some rare smiles and one upbeat moment when a stuffed dancer in fire-engine red is thrown on stage to make a sound resembling an occupied beanbag chair, *Scenario* was quite somber.

*Scenario* is emblematic of Cunningham, as it evokes neither pity nor joy. Once again, he confounds expectations while staying true to impeccable technique and self-exploration. The man is a wonder. In Cunningham's aesthetic, there are no right or wrong answers, no morals, and no linear action. You might leave the performance not knowing what you've seen. He doesn't know what you've seen either. Only you can decide. ▼



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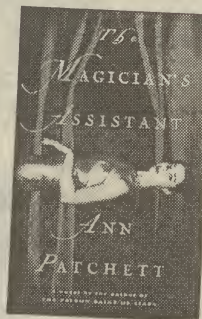
## Disappearing act

by Dan Blue

The Magician's Assistant by Ann Patchett; Harcourt Brace & Company, \$23

Many lesbians and gays leave their hometown for good. The place where they grew up is not where they belong, and they start life fresh in major cities like San Francisco or Los Angeles. Not everybody makes a seamless transition. Many spend their lives wandering between two worlds: the history they were born into, and the history they choose.

In Ann Patchett's novel, *The Magician's Assistant*, virtually every character has left home or wants to. Some are war refugees, others stuck in abusive households. One person accepts her lot, come what may: "Everything is pretty much the same no matter



where you are." Another wipes out his past entirely.

Parsifal, the gay magician of the title, pulls himself out of his own hat, inventing himself down to his name. So successful is this transformation that no one around him, not even his assistant Sabine, knows of his past. He "had made himself a happy life like

someone else would make a seaworthy boat, following step by careful step... When he was finished it was the only life he knew."

At Parsifal's death, Sabine must confront the abrupt disappearance of her own past. What does an assistant do without her magician? Worse, Sabine has devoted her life to a man who loved men. For twenty-two years she contented herself with Platonic love and tagged along with Parsifal's boyfriends. Now she inherits the

next page ►



# Power writers

by Deborah Peifer

**At Our Core: Women Writing About Power** edited by Sandra Haldeman Martz; Papier-Mache, \$11

Sandra Haldeman Martz, who has edited nearly a dozen anthologies celebrating women's lives, and celebrating aging, offers a new collection that may be the best yet. Looking at what power means to women, and yes, there are as many definitions as there are women, Martz has collected the writing of 62 women, of the "thousands of women and handful of men who submitted work to the project."

Her goal, and she succeeds, is to give us all a starting place for thinking about power. In her very fine introduction, Martz recalls: "Raised in rural Texas, I grew up surrounded by strong, dependable, solid women: my mother and grandmothers, other farm wives, teachers. In their lives, power was a silent adjective, known but never talked about."

Power as a noun — something that could be used — was held by men: bankers, preachers, school principals, fathers."

In the following years, women's lives changed, along with ideas of women and power. Martz noticed, however, in the past few years, a real erosion in the gains women made in the '70s. *At Our Core* is a response to that erosion, and it is extraordinary.

Beginning with Elayne Rapping's very fine essay, "None of My Best Friends: The Media's Unfortunate Victim/Power Debate," Martz gathers poems, essays and stories about the ways in which women see themselves and their relationship to power. One of the best, Nancy McLaughlin Sirvent's "Runoff," tells the astonishing tale of Tracy, called Tracy by her clueless teacher, who discovers her own strength when she sees her sister terrorized at school. I suspect for a lot of us women it is easier to be brave for someone else than for ourselves. Sirvent creates a heroic girl, funny, gutsy, real; I can hardly wait for the

novel from which this story is excerpted. Another find is Joan Zimmerman's "Eve," a take on the Garden of Eden that would, I suspect, royally frost the Bible-thumpers. I found it magical.

Martz has a real gift for selection and arrangement. The result is a collection that will keep you thinking, and sometimes laughing, for a long time. It might just make you decide to take charge of your life, to celebrate your own power. Think of it — you can change the world. Read how. ▼



Sandra Haldeman Martz



## Magician

◀ previous page

house and furnishings which belonged to his lover (also dead), and the full bitterness of her exclusion is borne in upon her. Everything she owns is second-hand. "She had the love letters which were not written to her."

### Abyss of grief

Into this abyss of grief comes news that Parsifal's mother and two sisters are alive and eager to visit. They blow in from Nebraska to bring a waft of the prairies to Hollywood Hills and to worry about crabgrass at Forest Lawn. Sabine is drawn to their homey friendliness and acknowledges a new way to know the man she loved, an unknown epoch in his life to explore and understand.

From this constellation of individuals and themes, Patchett constructs a tale of loyalty and betrayal, stagnation and growth. Visiting Nebraska to explore the past, Sabine at first considers the obvious. "What if you were born in Alliance, Nebraska, only to find that you looked your best in a white dinner jacket?" Slowly Sabine glimpses fundamental differences between Nebraska and Los Angeles and new reasons why queer

folk migrate to cities. She also reawakens to her own life, and her devotion to Parsifal flowers with a woman who resembles him.

Though never trespassing the bounds of realism, Patchett locates these struggles in a world just this side of fantasy. The props of stage magic (rabbits and hats) glow with unearthly suggestiveness. Dead men visit Sabine in dreams. Characters resonate with doubles and mirror images. There are two sisters (each trying to leave home), two husbands, two brothers, two hospitals, and even two states. These resemblances are never insisted upon, yet they suggest parallel universes where humans repeatedly confront the same issues, always with an individual response.

Exquisitely written, *The Magician's Assistant* contains one flaw: the character Parsifal never comes to life. Symptomatically, he is also the only figure who wholly denies his past. He therefore lacks the dimensions of time, history, and mortality which haunt the other characters and make them memorable. Patchett depicts people struggling to grow and build through losses. That they survive and even blossom without wholly obliterating their history suggests the humane and ultimately hopeful nature of her vision. ▼

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# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare

by Eric M. Rose

### Group shows galore

There is something to be said for the group show, with its sampling of tidbits from a whole range of artists. One can be drawn in by a familiar name and then end up falling in love with a piece by someone unheard of. This past week, I had the opportunity to visit two group shows: *All of Me* at the New Langton Arts Center and *El Niño: Chaos and Destruction* at the Galería de La Raza.

*All of Me* works with a rather sticky premise by asking the artists for work "using their lives and bodies as raw materials" — as if we need any more artists with egos trying to share with everyone how fascinating they are. But the show tries to go a step farther and explore the persona, ego, cliché and self-reflexivity associated with such a show. The show features a piece by New York poet Eileen Myles — and she does not disappoint with a slide show/audio performance that "explores the political path of the poet's body" (Myles once ran for president as a write-in candidate). Granted, the slide show was at best a complement to the audio portion, but that's not necessarily a criticism given the caliber of the poet involved.

Most of the work is video-based performance work, ranging from five to 72 minutes. Steve Reinke's "The 100 Videos" launches from the idea "I dreamt that I went to art school and when I woke up, I mean when I graduated" he was hired to make a set of nude male playing cards, a premise that he uses for over an hour. Then there is Alex Bag's untitled piece wherein a Ronald McDonald doll asks Hello Kitty, "Would you like to see my Mcpenis?" The video pieces (there are five in all) range from the silly to the profound to the just plain strange by artists from around the country. Also included in the show are Carter, Carolyn Castañón, Tony Tasset, and Scott Trattner.

The *El Niño* exhibit offers an extremely eclectic and fascinating collection of work from the emerging Latino/Chicano artists from the Bay Area. Many of these pieces explore identity, particularly the dual-identity in being a "something-hyphen-American," and the conflicts inherent when you throw gender into that mix. Like the threat posed by the *El Niño* storms, this exhibit threatens, as John Leanos says, "to reveal the complexity and diversity of the social and natural world." And this show certainly packs the intensity of said storm. ▼

*All of Me* is showing at the New Langton Arts Center, 1246 Folsom, through May 9. Call 626-5416 for more information.

*El Niño: Chaos and Destruction* is showing at the Galería de la Raza, 2857 24th Street, through May 17. Call 826-8009 for more information.



Musty Chiffon spices up dinner at Josie's Cabaret. See Friday.

## Fri

### Combat!

An American Melodrama, John Fisher's play on gay men and women in the US military during WWII. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, also 3pm Sat.; thru 4/18. \$21-24. Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St. 621-7977.

### Come Out Singing!

Baritone Bill Cooper's 90-minute salute to female vocalists, incl. Doris Day, Judy Garland, Karen Morrow, more. \$10, two drink min. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. The Plush Room, 940 Sutter. 885-2800

### Don't Get Up

A Musical History of the Opera Queen, Sean Owens' new play. \$16-\$20. Thurs.-Sat., 8pm; thru 4/25. Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy. 437-2349.

### Double Fisted

Solo show by Miriam Kronberg: delving into queer dating. \$10-\$12. Thurs.-Sat., 8pm; thru 4/11. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

### Full Frontal Rudity

Latin Hustle's comedy exploring queer Latino issues. \$10-\$12. Fri.-Sat., 8:30pm; Sun., 5pm. Thru 4/19. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

### The Hanged Woman

New play by lesbian playwright Lee Kisonas. \$12. 8pm Thurs.-Sat.; thru 4/11. Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy. 648-4121.

### Late Night Live

Comedy showcase with David Mills and Bridget Schwartz; "Roommates from Outer Space," with special guests Margo St. James, Musty Chiffon, Dan Rothenberg. \$8. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th. 861-7933.

## Sat

### Lines Contemporary Ballet

Alonzo King's acclaimed dance co. \$12-\$27.50. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; thru 4/19. Call for other dates and times. Yerba Buena Center, 700 Howard. 776-1999.

### The Magdalen

Play presented by Inside Out Productions: exploring the Mary Magdalen, a woman with a past. \$12. Fri.-Sun., 8pm; thru 4/26. The Next Stage, Trinity Episcopal Church, Gough at Bush. 665-7229.

### Martyr Me

Performance play by Todd Baker: the story of Anthony Cunannan's secret lover. \$5-\$10. Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission. 554-0402.

### Metamorphosen3

Solo exhibit by Brian Storts. Thru 5/9. (fou r w alls, 3160 16th St. 626-8515.

### Paisley for Brains

Musty Chiffon sings rock and roll selections from the 60s to the present. \$12-\$14. Thurs.-Sun., 8pm; thru 4/26. Special dinner-theatre Fri.-Sat. at 6pm for \$30. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

### Riding From Normal

Mark Kenward's new solo adventure. \$8-\$16. Thurs.-Sat., 8:30pm; thru 5/9. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 826-5750.

### Scared Stiff

Showcase of queer horror film shorts. \$5. 8pm. ATA, 992 Valencia. 824-3890.

### SF Ballroom Dance Theatre

Artistic Director Roberta Meyer and her company present nine works. \$12.50-\$22. Thurs.-Sat., 8pm; thru 4/19. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

### Turtle Heart

A one-woman performance barn-raising by Tara Jepsen. \$7-\$10. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. Wise Fool, 395 Valencia. 821-0517.

## Sun

### The Widow's Blind Date

Israel Horowitz' dramatic play. \$16-\$18. Thurs.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 7pm; thru 4/18. Actors Theatre, 533 Sutter. 296-9179.

## Sat

### Art of Exploitation

Featuring films by William Alland, Martha Colburn, excerpt from Pamela Anderson's home-sex video, more. \$5. 8pm. ATA Gallery, 992 Valencia. 824-3890.

### Easter Basket Sale

Basket viewing and silent auction benefit for PAWS and Visual Aid. Free. 10am-1pm. Ft. Mason Center, Bldg. A. 441-1282.

### Landscapes

Exhibit by 53 realist artists. Mon.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., 10am-5pm. Thru 5/9. John

Pence Gallery, 750 Post. 441-1138.

### Maleta Mulata

Campo Santo presents Jorge Ingacio Cortinas' play: a family caught up with the ghosts of their Cuban roots. \$9-\$14. Thurs.-Sun., 8pm; thru 4/26. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 626-3311.

## Queer & Kinky Danger:

Art of San Francisco's Leather/SM/Kink Worlds. Free. Sat.-Sun. 2pm-5pm; thru 5/31. Gay and Lesbian Historical Society, 973 Market, Suite 400. 777-5455.

## Saturday Night

### Gay Comedy

Gay comics Kevin Avery, Mindy Dawn Friedman, Danny Williams. \$10. 10pm. Josie's, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

## Treasures of African Art

From the Tervuren Museum. 125 treasures from Central Africa. \$7. Tues.-Sun., 9:30am-5pm; thru 4/19. Legion of Honor mus'm, Lincoln Park, 34th Ave. & Clement. 863-3330.

## Sun

## Cambodian/Laotian New Year

Celebration with Dharma chanting, dance, storytelling, arts and crafts. \$7 gen'l admission. 12pm-3pm. Asian Art Mus'm, Gruhn Court, Golden Gate Park. 379-8000.

## Easter Potluck Celebration

Program includes chanting, worship service, vegetarian potluck. 10am-2pm. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores. 824-9600.

## Egg

New paintings by Lalo Segura and Michael Purcell. 12pm-6pm. Patio, 19B Harriet St.

## Live Jazz

Free admission. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

## Positive Art

Exhibit by 10 artists affected by HIV. Thru 5/1. Opening reception today from 2pm-4pm. Castro Country Club, 4058 18th St. 621-1714.

## The Rhythm of Easter

Jazz and cabaret concert presented by Unity Church, incl. Ann Dyer, Scott Grinthal, Thomas Lister, more. Free. 10:30am. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness.

## Salsa on the Patio

Dancing to live Masala/world music by Candella. \$5. 4pm-8pm. El Rio, 3158 Mission. 282-3325.

## Warhol Re-Discoveries

Cinematheque presents West Coast premiere of restored prints to Screen Test #2 and Restaurant. \$7. 7:30pm. SF Art Institute, 800 Chestnut. 558-8129.

## Mon

## David Tanenbaum

SF Contemporary Music Players performs with acclaimed guitarist. \$16. 8pm. Yerba Buena Center Forum, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

## Gay Comedy Open Mic

MC Suzy Berger, up-and-coming comic talent, performers sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

## It's About Trans!

Workshop on laws protecting transgendered persons. Free. 6:30pm. Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th St. 552-7200.

## Make Space

Harvey Milk Inst. presents a writing and movement workshop for youth 23 and under. Free. 6pm. Eureka Valley Park & Rec, 100 Collingwood. 552-7200.

## SFMOMA

Fabrications: Bodybuildings, architectural exhibit; thru 4/28. Roy DeCarava, retrospective of works by Harlem photographer; thru 4/14. Sergeant Johnson: African-American Modernist; thru 7/7. Steve McQueen: Four Projected Images video installation; thru 5/12. \$8. Fri.-Tues., 11am-6pm; Thur., 11am-9pm. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

## Tues

## 20th Century Masterworks

Exhibit of work by 39 artists, incl. Lichtenstein, Picasso, Matisse. Tues.-Fri., 10:30am-5:30pm; Sat., 11am-5:30pm. Catherine Clark Gallery, 49 Geary, 2nd Floor. 339-1439.

## Cafe for Socrates

New philosophy discussion group. Free. 7pm. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

## Emerging Playwrights Fest

Playground presents seven plays by seven writers, incl. John Warren, Trevor Allen, Alex Moggridge. \$18-\$25. Mon.-Sun., 8pm; Sun., 7pm. A Traveling Jewish Theatre, 2800 Mariposa. 864-1809.

## Enchanted April

Anselm Berrigan and Yedda Morrison read from their work. \$5. 7:30pm. Canessa Park, 708 Montgomery. 437-3454.

## Groove

Vodka drinks with paid admission; visuals by Please Louis; Residents Blackstone and Ellen Ferrato, with dancing til 4:30am. 1015 Folsom.

## Gross Indecency:

"The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," Moises Kaufman's play. Tues.-Sun., extended thru 5/24. Call for times; tonight at 8pm. \$25-39. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

## Harriet Dodge & Al Lujan

Read new performance work. \$5. 8pm. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 626-2787.

## HIV Classes

Learn how to love loved ones with HIV. Free. Call for times; 7pm tonight. Davies





Medical Center, Castro and Duboce. 824-3269.

#### Love Connection

Presented by the Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center: which lucky bachelor will win an all-expense paid date? Free. 9pm-1am. N' Touch, 1548 Polk. Call 292-3420 X348 to sign up.

#### On Switch

Bisexual writers read short selections of poetry and prose. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

#### Open Mic Music

New ongoing showcase for singers, musicians, and dancers; hosted by Retts, the original fashion dyke. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

#### Rhodesa Jones

Teaches workshop on creative performance, creative survival. Tues., Thur., 1pm. \$75. Alice Arts Center, 1428 Alice St. #201, Oakland. (510) 834-0284.

#### Spring Visual Arts Season

Continues at Yerba Buena Center: installation art by Heidi Kumao; *The Last Judgment*, featuring Russian Socialist Realist School; *Needles and Pins* exhibit by five local artists. \$5. Tues.-Sun., 11am-6pm; thru 5/31 Yerba Buena Center, 701 Mission. 978-2700.

## Wed 15

#### Abigail's Party

Aurora Theatre Co. presents Mike Leigh's new play: a low rent *Absolutely Fabulous* meets *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* \$18-\$25. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun, 2pm. Thru 5/3. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave. (510) 843-4822.

#### Dan Savage

Author of "Savage Love" speaks. \$5. 7:30pm. Cafe DuNord, 2170 Market. 861-5019.

#### Do I Hear a Waltz?

42nd Street Moon's concert reading of "lost musical" by Stephen Sondheim and Richard Rogers. \$10-\$20. Wed.-Sun.; thru 5/3. Call for times; tonight at 8pm. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

#### Jacqueline Berger

Reads from *Mythologies & Dangers*. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

#### Journey to Your Anus

Harvey Milk Institute workshop for men: an introduction to your anus for tops, bottoms, and switches. \$20. 7pm. Eros, 2051 Market. 552-7200.

#### The King and I

Marie Osmond stars in this Rogers and Hammerstein classic. \$19.50-\$67. Wed.-Sun.; thru 5/10. Call for times; tonight at 8pm. Golden Gate Theatre, 1 Taylor. 776-1999.

#### My Castle's Rockin'

Rhodesa Jones stars as Jazz legend Alberta Hunter in Larry Parr's one-woman show. \$12-\$22. Wed.-Sun. thru 4/18. Call for times; tonight at 8pm. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

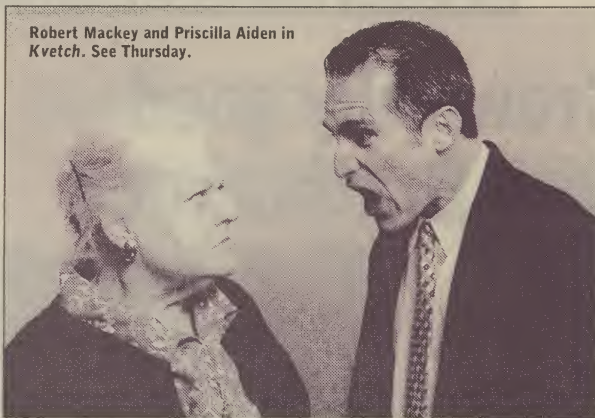
#### My Night With Reg

Kevin Elyot's comedy: haunting tales of gay love and desire. \$10-\$20. Wed.-Sat. thru 5/16. Call for times; tonight at 8pm. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

#### Recycling

"Living Full Circle." Lecture by Peter Berg of Planet Drum

Robert Mackey and Priscilla Aiden in *Kvetch*. See Thursday.



Foundation: how to live sustainably. Free. Noon. City College, Visual Arts Bldg., Room 115. 239-3580.

#### Shimmer

John O'Keefe's luminous story of a friendship between two adolescent boys. Wed.-Sat., 8:30pm; Sun., 3pm; thru 4/26. \$15-\$26. Magic Theatre, Bldg. D, Ft. Mason Center. 441-3687.

#### Soon

Group exhibit featuring Fumiko Amano, Mark Gonzales, Ted Rosenthal, more. Tues.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm. Terrain, 165 Jessie, 2nd Floor. 543-0565.

#### Voyage to the Afterlife

"Selected Artifacts From the Suto Egyptian Collection." Free. Mon.-Fri., 11am-4pm; thru 5/8. Museum of Ancient Civilizations, Humanities Bldg, Room 510, SFSU, 1600 Holloway. 338-2068.

## Thur 16

#### Asspant's Group Reading

Asspant's Publications presents reading by Jules Mann, Jeremy Jorgenson, Kathryn

Saussy, more. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

#### Burgundy North

Alliance Française's monthly lecture and wine tasting with wine expert Eric Stauffenger. \$40. 6:30 p.m. Alliance Française, 1345 Bush. 775-7755.

#### City Beat

Premiere of new queer live variety talk show with hostess Chablis: entertainment, interviews, community info, gay soap opera, more! 9pm on cable channel 53.

#### Country of Origin

Author Elmaz Abinader's performance based on her new book *Children of the Roojme: A Family's Journey from Lebanon*. 7:30pm. Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

#### Enrique

Performs new rock musical *Above and Beyond the Valley of the Ultra Showgirls*: a romp thru the seamy side of the rock music business. \$10. 9pm Thurs. thru 4/30. Transmission Theatre, 314 11th St. 861-6906.

#### Kvetch

Teatro Shalom presents Steven Berkoss's comedy. \$12. Thur.-Sat., 8pm; thru

5/2. Exit Stage Left, 156 Eddy. 602-4387.

#### Lynn Hersham Leeson

Multimedia exhibit including video, performance, computers, more. Also, work by Hungarian artist Foto Ada. Tues.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm; thru 5/23. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

#### M.C. Escher

Drawings, woodcuts and lithographs on exhibit. Thru 6/27. Vorpall Gallery, 393 Grove. 397-9200.

#### RetroPerspective

Artists looking back to the past, incl. Rob Finn, Ruth Katz, Trebor Scholz, more. Exhibit thru 5/2. Thurs.-Sun., 12pm-6pm. Gallery Site, 427 South Van Ness. 703-0554.

#### SFSU Jazz Big Band

Performance of swing and contemporary compositions. 7pm. Free. Knuth Hall, Creative Arts Bldg, SFSU, 1600 Holloway. 338-1431.

#### Sub-techs

*The New Post-Digital Sculpture*. Group exhibit incl. Toshi Onuki, Rachel Stevens, Stephen Hendem, more. Wed.-Sat., 12pm-5pm; thru 5/2. LAB, 2948 16th St.

#### Tanglewood Alum

Flute recital by Michael Royal to benefit SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band. \$10. 8pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. 554-0402.

#### The Transformation & Salt Mines

Special double feature of two films following a group of Latino transvestites in Manhattan. \$5. 8pm. ATA, 992 Valencia. 824-3890.

#### University Dance Theater

Annual spring concert, directed by Marni Thomas. \$10. Thurs.-Sun., thru 4/25. Call for times, tonight at 8pm. Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley. (510) 642-9925.

#### Welcome to Business Class

Golden Gate Business Association's gala dinner and awards. \$100. 6pm. California Culinary Academy, 625 Polk. 441-3651.

## WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Eric M. Rose  
Out & About  
Bay Area Reporter  
395 Ninth Street  
San Francisco, CA  
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Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

## This Week's Dinner Specials



Surf & Turf-grilled N.Y. Steak & Jumbo Garlic Prawns served with fresh vegetable, french fries & onion rings ..... 12.95

Chicken Stroganoff with mushrooms, marsala wine & sour cream, served over fettucini pasta ..... 8.75

Grilled Atlantic Salmon on a bed of garlic mashed potatoes with lemon-caper sauce and seasonal vegetables ..... 9.50

Spinach & Cheese Ravioli with creamy basil pesto and grilled chicken ..... 8.95

PRIME RIB with creamy horseradish and baked potato ..... 11.95

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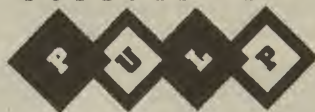
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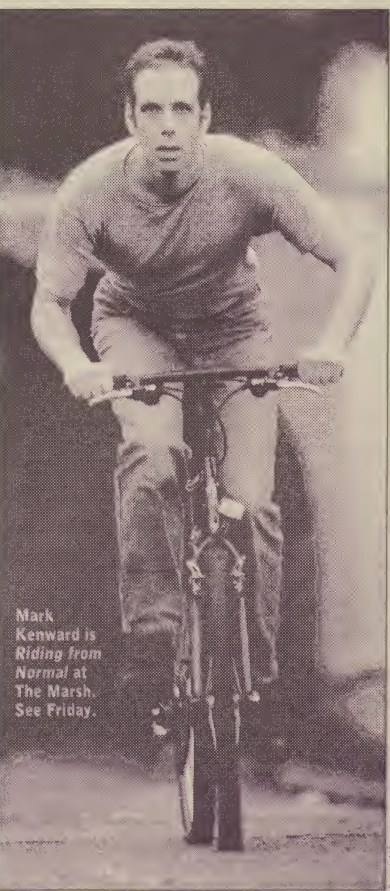
An Evening of Comedy  
on the Queer Latino Tip

Starring  
Jaime Cortez, Lito Sandoval and Al Lujan  
Co-directed by Latin Hustle & Hank Hyena  
Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros  
2926 16th Street @ Mission

April 3-19  
Fri-Sat 8:30 pm • Sun 5:00 pm

Tickets: Fri-Sat \$12 • Sun \$10  
For tickets call 415-861-5079

This show is supported by a grant from the  
San Francisco Arts Commission Cultural Equity Grant



Mark Kenward is riding from Normal at The Marsh. See Friday.



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# Crown thy good with Brotherhood

by Mister Marcus

While all the hoopla in leather circles is concentrated on the 20th anniversary of International Mr. Leather in Chicago on Memorial Day Weekend, let us not forget the American Leatherman, Leatherwoman and Leatherboy contests. The trio are scheduled for the American Brotherhood Weekend of April 24-26 in Washington, D.C. — quite possibly the best time to visit our nation's capital.

Only 17 days remain in the reigns of American Leatherman '97 Jim Raymond, American Leatherwoman '97 Leslie Anderson and American Leatherboy '97 Max Steiner. They'll be gracefully stepping aside for their successors.

Roger Able, Jim Cobb and Vern Stewart are the capable producers of this particular leather competition. Reportedly, reservations are pouring in for one of the newest and liveliest events to come down the pike in a long while.

The latest in from the producers is that the first-ever International Ms. Leather Judy Tallwing McCarthy has agreed to be a judge after the current IML Genelle Moore had to bow out due to a job conflict. I ran into Judy two weekends ago at the Washington State Mr. Leather affair in Seattle. She was in good health and spirits, and eager to get involved with the community she loves. I'm overjoyed to join the judging panel, which includes Jim Raymond, Leslie Anderson, Max Steiner, Judy, Intl. Mr. Leather '87 Scott Tucker and current IML Kevin Cwayna, for this auspicious weekend.

The host hotel is the Washington Plaza (10 Thomas Circle); you



IMSL '96 Jill Carter (left) and IMSL '87 Judy Tallwing McCarthy exchange greetings at The Cuff in Seattle during Leather Pride Week in Washington state.

can reserve by calling (800) 424-1140 (group 6068). You can get all the info by clicking on AbleProd@aol.com. At this late date, the VIP Deluxe Package is \$100, and the regular registration package is only \$70. The "usual suspects" will all be there, and it will be another one of those momentous leather weekends as only D.C. can do it. Cherry blossoms, the D.C. Eagle, Green Lantern, The Follies and Annie's Steak House — need I say more. Hope to see you there!

### A John with class

A man enters a competition, is named the winner, gets sashed, receives the prizes, and gallantly pledges himself to a year of "bottoming" for his community's welfare. But then a week later, he is informed that due to a human error in the scoring (which was supposedly utilizing the Olympic system), the title is not his after

all. What to do?

Well, that's what happened in Seattle! So last weekend the former Washington State Mr. Leather John Milovich relinquished his title to the first runner-up, Gary Rose, who was the true recipient of the honor. Rose, if he so chooses, will represent the state of Washington at IML in Chicago next May 1999.

I really don't know how I would react if such a thing happened to me! However, in the eyes of the Seattle leather community, John Milovich will forever stand as a true and honorable leatherman. He accepted the twist of fate like a trouper, downplaying his relinquishing of the title. (And I can tell you that it was no easy thing for the Washington State Mr. Leather Organization to break the news to him when the scoring problems were discovered.)

John Milovich has agreed to fill a vacancy on the WSMLO board of directors and will continue to strive for the betterment

next page ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Thursday, April 9

Mr. August 1999 will be chosen for the Bare Chest Calendar at the Powerhouse at 2200. Win \$100, fame, fortune, fun!

Rod "Rotten Rodney" McKim celebrates his 50th at Daddy's tonight in a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund. It's a \$7 beer/soda bust, plus a raffle, roasting and surprises. Lee Harrington and Daddy Philip host. The massacre, er, ceremony starts at 2000.

### Saturday, April 11

It's a full moon! Don't miss the Golden Dildeaux Awards at the Eagle at 2100, with a beer bust, celebrity presenters, denial, shame, outrage, joy and tears. Art Tomaszewski and Miranda von Stockhausen emcee, with R&B artist Toni, stand-up comic Danny Williams and those songbirds Donna Sachet and Brian Benamati.

Cal Eagles' one-day ride to Point Reyes Light-house for bikes/cars. Meet at 0930 at Daddy's; depart at 1000. No fee but bring lunch, bridge toll and gas money. If it rains, call 415-267-0560 for instructions.

In Boston? Check out the Ramrod for the Mr. Boston Leather Contest when that cute Steven Foster steps aside for his successor.

### Sunday, April 12

SF Forum beer/soda bust at the Eagle, 1500-1800, with an Easter Egg & Butt Painting Contest! Only \$8, with food (ham & pineapple sauce) by Andy Rose and Dick Manning! Dye on your butt? No doubt there's been worse!

At Daddy's, Gary Virginia and Mark Seeba host

a \$7 beer/soda bust; its \$10 with the buffet. Thrill to the Easter Basket & Bonnet Contest, 1600-1900.

Sundance Saloon (C&W dancing at last!) premieres at 174 King Street behind Pleasuredome. Only \$5! Square dance lessons, 1800-1930; open dancing after that. This will happen every Sunday from now on. Swing your partners! A nice alternative to a certain other SoMa establishment and its owner!

### Wednesday, April 15

Underwear Buddies at 933 Harrison. The doors are open from 2030 until 2300. You know the rules. No skidmarks. Call 863-HEAD.

### Thursday, April 16

You're invited to witness the Bears of San Francisco present proceeds from IMBR '97 tonight at 1930, with a preview auction and dessert at the Ramada (8th and Market). Checks go to LYRIC, the National Minority AIDS Council and WORLD.

### Sunday, April 19

Mr. SF Leather proceeds distributed to LYRIC and the AEF at the Eagle beer/soda bust, 1500-1800, \$7, food, \$250 cash raffle (and you keep the whole thing!). Leather Daddy XV Patrick Batt hosts this extravaganza. Join in!

### Wednesday, April 22

Leather Buddies at 933 Harrison Street. You know the rules. Wear leather and boots. No cologne (you will be sniffed), no attitude, no white sneakers. Call 863-HEAD.



# Sun, sand and sin

by Sweet Lips

While you, my faithful and adoring fans, are reading this, I and a devoted coterie will be sunning ourselves on the sands of Puerto Vallarta — no doubt stirring up considerable excitement among the locals. I mistakenly threw my thong in the dryer along with my towels and am now left with only my caftan collection to dazzle the natives. If the *policia* don't break it up again this year, my annual Easter egg hunt with the cabaña boys should be festive.

On Easter Sunday, my retinue and I will be enjoying the always faboo mimosa brunch at El Tucán Restaurant and Bar, then it's a mad dash to Easter services at the Cathedral of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Those Catholics give great ritual and even better drag! Last year, one of our number who wishes to remain nameless disappeared into a confessional with a comely man of the cloth and was not seen or heard from again until Monday afternoon! I guess he had quite a backlog of sins! That'll be 3,000 Hail Marys, please!

Meanwhile, back in Baghdad by the Bay, things will be humming on the Polkstrasse on Hippy Hoppity Day! The Polk Rendezvous will be throwing a special Easter bash, featuring our famed Bunny Boys, who start shaking their cottontails around 5:30 p.m. Dennis "Hamblocks and Halvah" Tyler will serve a traditional Easter dinner (\$5) from 3 to 5 p.m. Beginning on April 10, Good Friday, buy an Easter egg at the PR for a buck, and you may win a lovely prize, besides helping the extremely worthy GodFather Service Fund.

For all you horticulturists out there, don't forget that Saturday, April 18, is the next workday at the National AIDS Memorial Grove, which, of course, is located at the eastern end of Golden Gate Park, north of the bowling greens and west of the tennis courts. Greta Grass has just had her pruning shears professionally sharpened, so I'd advise all you



Sweet Lips (right) and crew at the El Tucán on a previous Puerto Vallarta jaunt.

weed-pullers to give her a wide berth — she's been known to give a few unsolicited haircuts when in gardening mode. Call the NAMG at (415) 750-8340 for more information. Tours of the grove are conducted every Thursday, 9-11 a.m.

Yes, I did have a nice post-Oscars visit with Julie Christie. She dropped in one morning at the PR and surprised me, the dickens! True to form, she was

not at all bitter about losing to Helen Hunt, just glad that all the hoopla was over. Over a pot of English Breakfast, we reminisced about old times and old boyfriends (like Warren Beatty), and we both agreed that we didn't look a whit different than when I was her stand-in on *Dr. Zhivago* (though that Geraldine Chaplin hasn't aged well!). Anyway, she did take me to task for some of the uncharitable remarks I've made about Helen (like how mousy she is), which evidently got back to Ms. Hunt. Dry your tears, Helen. You looked fabulous in your Grace Kelly get-up clutching your Oscar. Two bits of advice: A) Eat something now! and B) Consider going the Barbara Hershey route for that lip problem!

Note to Marlow at Uncle Bert's: Sorry we haven't been able to get together lately, but since we both work the same schedule now, I can't get over to your neck

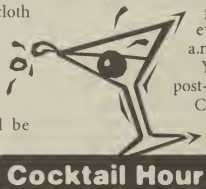
of the woods for a chat and chew. However, you are in my thoughts — and dreams!

Why didn't someone think of this before? I'm talking about the Auto Arouser. Those wild and woolly people at Good Vibrations are offering said device for only \$20 at their Berkeley and SF stores. The 5-1/2" long, 1-1/2" wide, one-speed, peach vinyl vibrator plugs into the cigarette lighter of your car, thus ensuring hours of driving pleasure. The perfect antidote for road rage! Now, if only they'd install lighters on the buses, I'd be a much happier person!

That terrific trio, Gary, Michael and Jerry, of the Swallow (1750 Polk) have certainly rounded up some truly talented piano players for their nightly soirées, plus a wonderful Sunday afternoon jazz group. Come on down and join them in the tuncful fun!

If you haven't wandered into the Giraffe (1131 Polk) lately, you should do so at the earliest opportunity. They've assembled an impressive collection of antique lamps and chandeliers. It's an inspired makeover for this august institution, and Kenny Allison is, as always, doing a splendid job.

Fantasy and Flesh Dept.: Skin-flick aficionados should check out Hal Call's Circle J Video Club (369 Ellis), where the action offscreen is often hotter than on. The regulars really get all pumped up there for hours on end! Love the pews! Love the sexy new warehouse/garage space! ▼



Cocktail Hour

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

of his community and those less fortunate — without the title, without the sash, without the prizes. He faults no one for the snafu. Seattle's leather community has much to be proud of when it comes to Mr. Milovich, a leatherman of the highest caliber.

As for Gary Rose, the new Mr. Washington State Leather, your year should be one of accomplishment by virtue of working hard for your community. You could do worse — much worse — than imitating the selflessness of your all-too-brief predecessor.

### The Dishcovery Channel

Does anyone in Chicago's leather community realize that former Mr. NY Leather Andy Borden is now a resident of the Windy City? His job caused the move, and while Chicago may pride itself on the quality of its beef, here's this hunky New York Cut right on their turf!

As if there wasn't already enough planned for IML's 20th

anniversary in Chicago, the Mr. Ebony in Leather Contest has been slated for an unspecified hour on Saturday afternoon, May 23, at the Leatherneck Bar. Cain Berlinger will produce the soirée.

The outgoing Mr. Ebony in Leather Davien O. Nelson, who deserted San Francisco without a word of warning, is scheduled to be a judge, but don't count on it. Mr. Nelson was supposed to be a judge at the Empire State Leather contest last weekend in Albany, N.Y., but was a no-show! Despite this socially inept man, a winner was selected, and the raves are coming in from all quarters for Michael Weems. Reports are that Weems is a black Adonis with good looks and a dazzling personality — definitely someone to keep an eye on when he competes for American Leatherman in Washington, D.C., in two weeks!

Former Ms. NLA Stacy (does anyone know her last name?) continues to be a source of irritation in leather circles because she refuses to recognize her year is over. Yoohoo, Stacy! Over here! The sash has been passed, girl! Your tiara has been retired! When said

Stacy showed up late for the Empire State Mr. Leather contest, claiming she didn't know that she was the head judge, the Stars emcee produced Stacy's own letter from late last year in which she accepted the responsibility! The ubiquitous Stacy's response to her own epistle was not recorded for posterity!

And here on the home front, word leaked out last week that Mr. Daddy's Leather Mark Seeba will not compete for the Intl. Mr. Leather title after all. No flash yet on whether Glennon Sutter will take up the cudgels, but of course, I'm always the last to know!

And squealing, gnashing of teeth and denials in high decibels were heard all over Faghdad by the Bay when the Golden Dildeaux Award nominees were announced in this space last week. Don't these honorees realize that this is a small town? That no action goes unnoticed or unheralded? Even before e-mail, fax machines, telephones, telegraphs and smoke signals, queens found something to dish about! Go with the flow, have fun, and remember to vote for the truly deserving! ▼

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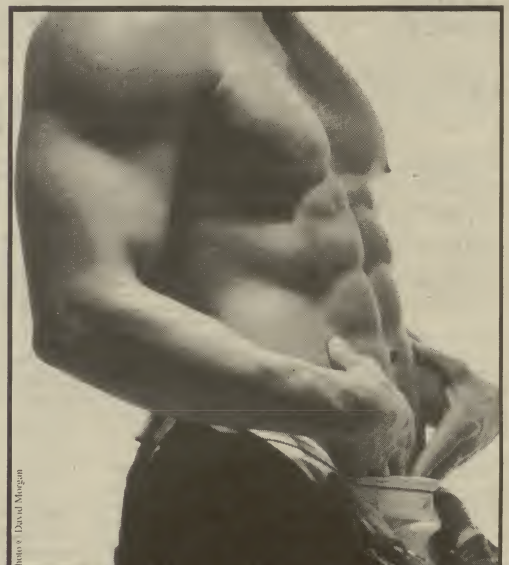
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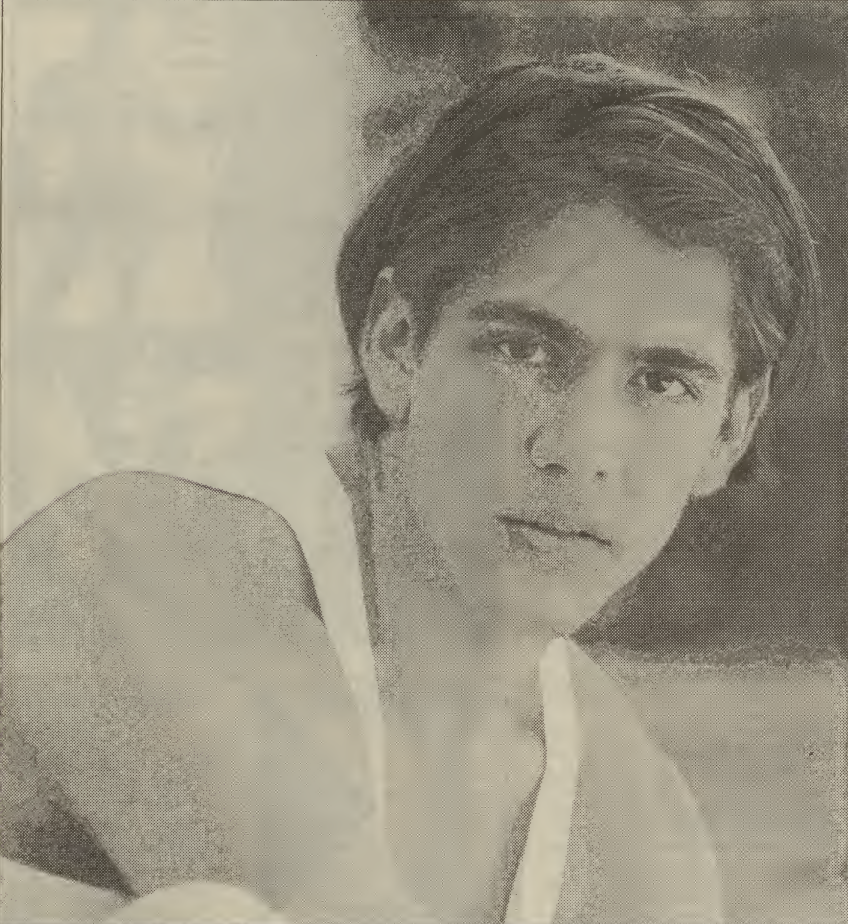
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### PARTING GLANCES

**9th+Tahama grocery 8:30 p.m.**  
Wed. 3/04, I, black denims. Leather jacket, passed, reversed, entered store after you. You, glasses, brown leather jacket, bought Marlboro Lites, beer. Are you a top? Want to try Sawfay? ☎ 1600

**Loren on 100 Bk Corbett**  
Met in front of Bank Of America at 18th St. 4/9, 4:30pm. Want to spend more time talking with you. Hope your motorcycle works. Sincerely, Dennis ☎ 1601

**Concord Bound On N Line 3/5/98**  
We talked about old Safeway at Market/Deboe in 1960. You tall 40s, Black man. Me, white, shorter older, chatted, you got off at Van Ness. Interested in exploring further? ☎ 1602

**Sat Feb 28th Muni 6pm.**  
Sat down next to me, reading. Interesting talk about books. Fowles-magus-rand-fountainhead. I got off at Castro, wearing shorts. You: dark hair great smile. Let's talk more. ☎ 1603

**Mon.-2/23-Castro Muni 9:30am.**  
U handsome! 5'9", buzz cut, gray sweat-shirt, blue "M" cap, backpack-smiled, looked and made me nervous. Me, 5'11", buzz cut (gray sides) Black jacket, shirt, briefcase, reading book. Wished I spoke up before you got off at Powell stop. Ready to talk... Still interested? ☎ 1604

**Rick Call Me Again!!**  
You were cut off and I only got the first 3 digits of your number. I gave you my card on the Muni-Rand ☎ 1605

**Desperately Seeking Dave**  
From Fresno. 2/23, met on Market under bridge. Hooked up, had the best time, you wanted to stay, I had to go. Need to see you again make it up to you I promise. Scott ☎ 1700

**38 Geary Inbound Wed 3/4 5-6pm**  
You Blond in brown jacket! Me grey hair, dark grey jacket. We smiled a lot. You waved getting off at Franklin. I regret not following, being so shy. Call me ☎ 1701

**Len@Hollywood Bookstore2/26**  
Thurs. You: tall, dark, handsome & on way to gym. Me: short dark, handsome. Had great time, would like more. Please call ☎ 1702

**Randy with stripped shirt**  
We met at the White Horse 3/14. We danced, talked and yet I was too shy to exchange phone #s. Dumb huh? Call me ☎ 1703

**BlowBuddys Fri 13th**  
You hooked up with my friend and I. We moved into a booth. I know your name. Would like to play again. Waved goodbye outside. Call ☎ 1800

**Palace Hotel SF**  
Noticed you in the lobby area hope you noticed me (3/18+19/98) I would like to hear from you. Bryan ☎ 1801

**ISO Kitty Glamour**  
Horny, hung, handsome Italian seeks companionship of the most beautiful Drag Queen in all of San Francisco. Please call soon. I want to offer marriage! ☎ 1900

**Cute Asian gas station Castro**  
It was weekend night you filled gas at Castro. Had Honda we both saw each other you gave lift you wanted to do "it". Looking for place, car, lost you ☎ 1901

**Quest Primary Care / 3-20**  
You: Blond hair & beard, great blue eyes and smile wearing leather jacket. Me: Short brown hair & beard wearing green "Virgin" cap. Would love to meet you. Interested? ☎ 1902

**3/19 Wed #14 Bus Mission 10pm**  
You got off w/your friends at 30th st. couldn't follow. But let's do lunch & charge it as another expense- GAM ☎ 1903

**My Place - 1 yr ago**  
You- Hunky, chocolate man from Danville, VA. Me- Big white mustache, originally from NO. VA. Think about you often. Dinner? Date? ☎ 1904

**3/26 Mike-this ones for you!**  
Met-Hole In The Wall. Then late evening meal in Castro. Thanks! To bad things didn't work out!-? We would have had a really fine time! Ron Martinez ☎ 1905

**We've met B-4 saw you Fri 3/27**  
On Castro aft. 6. You came out of a care. Me: GBM black jacket we stared as companionship. I'd love to talk to you. ☎ 1906

### SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**Good Catch!!**  
Intelligent GBM 23, very goodlooking but a bit shy which makes it hard to find Mr. Right. Looking for a good man, 20-40 to bring me out of my shell. ☎ 1606

**Long Haired Granola**  
29 GWM, 6', 175, masculine, Kayaker, Min, Biker, backpacker, hemp-necklace wearer, Patagonia fleece owner, mechanically inclined professional. Seeks outdoors lovin' road tripper/individual similar age and interests. NS ☎ 1607

**Insatiable Bottom Seeks Top**  
Fil/Am 46 yo bottom looks 30s, 5'9", 160#, seeks LTR, w/top 8'1/2". I'm handsome D/D free tight ass deep throat. Seeks special top for LTR. ☎ 1608

**Kinky Oakland Versatile FF**  
38 GWM, HIV poz, 5'9", 155#, ISO, GWM, 30-48, for fun and dating, FF versatile a plus, ISO LTR with common interest ☎ 1609

**Cute Shy Boy**  
5'7", 150#, brgm, wants boyfriend my size or smaller into art, music, and romance ☎ 1610

**Don't Pass This One Up**  
GWPM, early 50s, 5'9", 160, bld/bu, energetic, trim, lots of fun and healthy, seeks a husky, sincere, honest eager bottom guy over 30, goal directed, soul centered, NS with a passion for living and having fun. My interests are romance, home, dining/wine in or out, athletics, performing arts, horses, and just hanging out. Try, you might be surprised! ☎ 1611

**Brown man seeks partner**  
I'm 41 HIV-, 170, 6'1". Born 6/6/1956. I'm into music, massage and gardening. I enjoy a simple life! ☎ 1602

**You, Me, And Teena Marie?**  
From wild and peaceful to passion play what else do we have in common? BM, Mid 30s, shy guy, HIV+, ISO WML for friendship or square biz. ☎ 1612

**Looking For More? Not into scene**  
34yo, handsome WM, 5'11", 180lbs, bmbm, seeks other masculine guys who are hot but, more! Have your act together? 25-40, HIV-, no drugs, give a call. ☎ 1613

**Mr. Peel-You're Needed**  
Ongoing adventurous romance sought by tall, handsome GWM. Sex is lovely but secondary, the discourse as vital as the act. I'm boyish, playful, intensely verbal-UB2, Bowler and broly provided. ☎ 1615

**I Want To Go Camping With You!**  
GWM, 35, 5'10", 150#, br/br, cute, ISO hot guy/Germanic or Mediterranean, 31-42, to fuck me in the Sierras. No km/drug! Possible LTR. ☎ 1616

**GAM Seeks To Settle Down**  
I'm 38, 5'8", 143#, LTR oriented. You GWM, HIV- NS/D, stable, enjoy life. HTWT proportionate, versatile a plus. ☎ 1617

**Stiff Ringed Meat Stickin Str 8**  
Up in thick bush of sweaty, brown pubic hair. Root milk it 4 hrs & I'll shoot U load after hot load. VGL, try, 6', 160#, Buck, 47, cut, ISO freq. insat. milkings. WM, XUSN, buzzcut. Travel reg 4 LTR. ☎ 1618

**Daddy Top**  
Seeks energetic bottom 5'9", or less with oral talents to accommodate fat 8" dick. Be HIV+, Mediterranean features, grateful heart. ☎ 1619

**German Cream Luv Cocoa Dreams**  
Romantic, masculine, Afro-American, caramel complexion, 40s, nice build, goatee, Virginia native, writer seeks beefy, blond, European professional, goatee, 40s, hairy top into architecture, jazz, art, passion, monogamy and passion. ☎ 1620

**GWM Seeking GAM**  
GWM, early 40s, 5'8" hr, gym eyes, hairy-chest, masc, HIV-, seeking GAM, 25-40, in-shape, masc, HIV-, romantic for possible dating or LTR. ☎ 1621

**Masseur / Bodybuilder WTD**  
Prof. W/M, semi-retired, very hirsute, seeks a forementioned for wkly date. Excellent remuneration. ☎ 1622

**Attractive Latino**  
Goodlooking Latino, 32 yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel, looking for GWM between 25-39yo for friendship or more. Just call ☎ 1623

**35yo Latino needs romance**  
I'm goodlooking good body, 5'10", 168lbs enjoys quiettimes, movies, going out for fun adventures; needs goodlooking caucasian male stable and honest. ☎ 1807

**Gay Seeks Fun!**  
I am GWM 30ish, good lkg, energetic, and deal guy seek to share entertainments plus sport. I love raquet ball, weightlifting, to stay fit. I love to share laughter and good food. Please no screaming feminine, barfly, ND and NS. I am attracted to Hombres with wolf howls. If you are reading up to this point, please call ☎ 1624

**Black man seeks lover**  
I'm 41 HIV-, 170 lb, bearded, I'm into music and gardening. I'm looking for a loyal man whom I can share my life with. ☎ 1704

**GAM, 5'6", 125#, Seeking GWM**  
Between 20 to 37 yo, with Blond hair and blue eyes. Would like to fuck and would like to be fucked. ☎ 1706

**Nice guy seeks same**  
Nice looking young 50ish GWM successful, romantic, personable & fun. Emotionally & physically fit, N/S, HIV-. Seeks GWM (34-48). Have a heart, brain, like to cuddle. Be honest and know how to communicate. ☎ 1707

**Breakfast in bed, East Bay**  
Late twenty something, tall & gym toned & handsome too! I'm seeking a friend first LTR. Be healthy, in shape & sweet, 20-35. Let's enjoy breakfast in bed. ☎ 1708

**Sateen and Lace**  
GBM hot rat top daddy 48 yrs. ISO GWM, bottom with hot tits who enjoys being in fem panties in bed. Lt drink, smoke & aroma OK. No drag or beads Ph. 8e 45-55, and under 5'10". ☎ 1709

**38 Educated athletic HIV- GWM**  
Seeks similar. I'm 5'8", sexy, inexperienced with men but love teasing. Faithful, playful, love. You're smart successful. ☎ 1710

**Coffee talk?**  
Attractive GAM, 26, 5'8", 160, professional into dancing up a storm, diverse foods and films. ISO GM 25-35, masculine, fit with sense of humor. Let's meet over lattes! ☎ 1711

**The real thing!!**  
GWM looking for a long term friend (love). I'm 35, 6'11, br/br. Looking for monogomous relationship for life. ☎ 1712

**Be my man.**  
Charming Oakland boy, HIV+, 28, 5'7", seeking financially secure, tall, masculine, clean-cut, attractive man, 29-45, looking for outgoing, fun people to enjoy evenings and weekends. ☎ 1713

**A few good men wanted**  
For friends and LTR by honest, slim, trim, GWM, 50, new to area. Into cuddling, walks, friendship, humor, travel? You be younger, HIV-, HWP, N/S, any race with brains/heart. ☎ 1714

**European male (professional)**  
6'1", 190#, GWM, 37yo top seeks GWM/Asian or Hispanic male for fun possible LTR. Must be same age or younger. My interests include, reading, W/O, hiking. ☎ 1715

**Asian male seeking friends**  
GAM, 38, 140, 5'7", well built, smooth. Like dining, theatre and outdoors. Seek WM 25-38, good body for friends/ date ☎ 1716

**Massage partner wanted**  
30ish GAM seeks clean-cut GWM/GAM 30s-40s for mutual massage at your place. Preferably someone with massage table in SF. Looks unimportant, please be weight/height proportionate. ☎ 1717

**Seeking darling, honey or baby**  
GWM 38, 6'1", 170#, br/br, kissing, hugging, versatility, laughing, sharing, caring, swimming, hiking, nude massage, cooking, 8 wks. to optimum health. ☎ 1718

**Asian men and Filipino**  
GWM, 6', 165 lbs. Desires Asian, aggressive, dominating and romantic to service you with my tongue for steady, long term sessions-up to 2-3 hours. ☎ 1719

**Single Chicano guy 27**  
I'm from Mexican descent, 5'7", 160#, muscular, stocky, Grad student. Seeking Latinos or Whites under 38, for friendship or more. N/S only. ☎ 1720

**Gay seeks Hombre for fun**  
I am GWM 30ish, good lkg, energetic, and deal guy seek to share entertainments and sports. I love weightlifting to stay fit. I love to share laughter and good food. Please no screaming femme, barfly, N/D, NS. I am attracted to Hombres with wolf howls. If you are reading up to this point, please call!! ☎ 1721

**ISO best friend +**  
Discrete, well endowed, professional Blkm, 46, 5'6", 165#, ISO other discrete, well endowed versatile Blkm, 5'6"-6'4", weight proportionate to height. No fats, flams, or games. Only serious Blkm please!! ☎ 1722

**HIV+ Blk 5'10"175#**  
Seeking friendship with black minded guy age range 35-55. I am attracted to men with lean bodies in fairly decent shape. ☎ 1804

**I'm looking for a devoted**  
loyal man to share my life with. I live in a small cabin in Mendocino Co. ND NS NA ☎ 1818

**Seeking HIV+ Eastbay top**  
Black, brown or deeply tan with moustache preferred. HIV+ bottom, 35, blue, brown, 6ft, 185, moustached smoker, wants to kickback and snuggle by fireplace-LTR with Capricorn or Virgo. ☎ 1805

**Handsome HIV+ top**  
Funny GWM, 41, 5'10", 150, 7" uncult, br/br, nicotine-enhanced gym enthusiast seeks handsome, fit GWM under 42 for metropolitan dining and babylonian atrocities. ☎ 1806

**Everyone says I'm a great catch!**  
So why am I still single then? Handsome GWM 30s, HIV+, 12 years, T-cells 849 and rising. Seeking GBM top 20s-30s tall a plus. I am stable and secure emotionally and financially. ☎ 1705

**Spring, rebirth, light, love + lust**  
Handsome, healthy, spiritual, HIV+, 50yo, 6'2", 185, ISO very goodlooking, charming, purposeful, young man who seeks true love + hot romantic sex. ☎ 1808

**Shaved BI desert bear ISO mate**  
Me: 42, 6', 260#, HIV-, passionate, caring, affectionate, who likes movies, travel, outdoors adventure. ISO masculine mate 30-50 with similar interest, medium build to take back to me desert den. ☎ 1809

**Young attractive GWM seeks GAM**  
26yo, affectionate, 6', slim, smooth body, passionate kisser, seeks cute Asian male, under 40, for hot times. ☎ 1810

**Shy passive GWM**  
57, 5'10", 150#, HIV-, interested in hiking and classical music looking for HIV-GWM with nice body for companionship and possible oral sex. ☎ 1811

**Let's face it**  
You're a cute SF GAM looking for a nice GWM not obsessed by sex if so, this HIV 31 yo 5'11", 200#, professional wants to meet you. Nice guys only. ☎ 1812

**Bon Vivant**  
Seeks ongoing friendship with an attr. 45yo man who appreciates being with an affectionate loving-caring mature man, early 60s, 5'8", 175#, open to LTR. ☎ 1813

**Handsome muscular Italian**  
GWM, 6'2", 185#, 38, into fitness, travel, romance and quiet times seeks another HIV- extremely well-hung man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 1814

**Looking for excitement?**  
Mature older WM HIV- bottom, 71/2x61/2. You 35-75 any race love to 69. Deep throat your thick 7" plus. I live alone-You from San Jose or South Peninsula. Hot times!! ☎ 1815

**Haven't U heard!**  
I'm looking for you: 5'9" to 6'; heavyset and relationship oriented, I'm relationship, career and health oriented; 5'9" and medium set. Only serious need inquire. ☎ 1817

**Hot healthy young stud**  
18-40 sought to help develop rustic country mountain home. Friends first! Possible partner or LTR later, let's talk! ☎ 1819

**Looking for true love**  
Cute guy in 40s, looking for true love. I'm a GWM professional, 160#, 6' tall, into current events, movies and romantic times. Seeking masculine, secure, fun-loving GWM between 25-35. ☎ 1907

**A smile on your face**  
Hugs & kisses come 1st My arms hold what the world lacks: Me: Top attract, GWM 48, 6'5", 250, large husky-stocky build, brown hair/moustache, hairy chest & stomach. You: Attract, GWM, 21-40, slim, smooth/moderate body hair. ☎ 1908

**Big brain big heart big dick**  
Seeks same for playful romance, intense conversation, and passionate sex. I'm a college teacher, 33, 195#, 6'1", goateed, HIV neg. Your're 20-40 medium/slim, HIV neg. ☎ 1909

**Valley men**  
50, average, seeking mature GWMS Modesto/Stockton. Mutual admiration. Brenda Health club Browsers. Talk, think, do. ☎ 1910

**I love blue eyes & tall man**  
Cute Southeast GAM, 32yo, 5'7", 135#, HIV+, affectionate, healthy HIV+, would like to find one attractive GWM 5'9" & up, height/weight proportionate. Age is open. ☎ 1911

**Let's date! Me: GWM 45, 5'9"**  
165#, Drk. HIV+, fit, same, N/D. Bottom: Spiritual. You: Want relationship, taller, too, humorous, like healthy fun. ☎ 1912

**Why I'm a good cocksucker**  
Because it's the best way to get a mouthful of your hot cum, fresh from factory. Why I'm a really good cocksucker: Two mouthfuls! ☎ 1913

**East Bay sensual man desired**  
For GWM, 41, decent man. Love to touch, kiss, cuddle. Enjoy walks, film, books, museums, conversation, spirituality. Desire safe, sane, honest man like me, better than average, to warm up spring. ☎ 1917

**Same sex identified man**  
Seeks same for soul mate-trusting enough to share vulnerable intimate thoughts and quiet moments. Adventurous enough for total mutual body/soul exploration!! ☎ 1803

**Back-to-basics cocksucking**  
We can chat another time, right now I'll just suck you off, rather well too! Object: Helly spurts of your maximized load. Beasts caviar!! ☎ 1914

**Bearded Husky N2 T+FF**  
Need ongoing spiritual revelation w/leather/HIV+ versatile top. GWM/GWM N2 dildos, TFF, FF, Me, GBM, 6'1", 200# short hair and goatee. Need a soulmate... ☎ 1915



**Professor seeks pupil**  
British poet, children's writer, lecturer seeks obedient helpful student (18-25) for fun and games, and education. ☎ 1816

**Bright eyes seeking Asian love**  
If you are slim, smooth, clean shaven G.M. This 6'-105", 87lb G.M. would like to meet for possible LTR. I'm like to meet for possible LTR. I'm honest, kind, loving, sincere, affectionate. ☎ 1916

## SEEKING ADVENTURE

**Cockucking in Downtown Office**  
Goodlooking guy ISO extra thick manmeat to eat, lick, worship, at downtown office in the early morning or after work. Be hung long and thick. Cockings, dirty talk a +. ☎ 1614

**Bondage Massage For Firm**  
Muscular-wiry bodies only. Sensual, erotic, fun, discrete, respect limits. Must workout to answer this ad. ☎ 1625

**Vigilant Horny Straight Guys**  
You know who you are, and so do I. You're welcome here at my place - discreet, playful, no strings, /be in shape, under 45, I'm 40, fit, sane. ☎ 1626

**Body Touch Exchange**  
Attractive, experienced masseur, tall, healthy body, 30s, with creative hands wants to exchange sensual massage with goodlooking, well-fit guy-curious or 4-hand massage blonde. ☎ 1627

**Hot Horny Blonde Blue 5'11"**  
160lbs, 9", seeks smooth, well-endowed bud buddies. Tattoos and buzzcuts A+. ☎ 1628

**ISO Sth. Bay-Men Of Color-Tops**  
GWM, 40, 5'6", 125#, HIV+. Seeks under 45, under 180#, energetic Black and Latino tops for sex or more. Do you love it in the shower like me? ☎ 1629

**WM Blue Collar Black Leather!**  
42yo great guy, Masculine facial hair in shape. Would like to hook up with older WM bad type wearing leather & boots. Safe only. ☎ 1630

**Older Seeks Younger Oral Slave**  
For mutual enjoyment. I'm 74, 5'8", 165, attr. and horny. You are 18-45, gd/ks, enjoying giving and receiving head. Preferable ongoing. ☎ 1631

**Leather Freak Seeks...**  
Gay Male with similar interests, into leather, rubber, plastic, bondage/breath control (light S/M); you must have full gear & toys. Me: attractive East Bay blonde, 40s, you similar 35-45. ☎ 1632

**Seek Very Horny Sexy Teacher!**  
Inexperience GWM, 28, 123, 6", bottom seeks regular very horny, sexy, muscular, well-hung, passionate, understanding, blonde GWM who could teach me the raw sex and how to make it last longer. ☎ 1633

**Straight Masculine WM 57**  
Seeking WM, slave, 67-70, to provide full-body massage: rim-service, deep throat. Watch me jerk off on your face hose you down. ☎ 1634

**Sit On My 9" White Cock!**  
33 yo white top, 6', 155lbs, 9" cock, br/m, glasses. Wants hot young white guy to sit on his big cock prefer smooth bodied men. ☎ 1635

**Looking For Jeff**  
Las Vegas truck driver with 9 inches sought by his phone buddy jack in SF. A hung truckdriver is as good as it gets!! Every truckdriver needs a phone buddy. ☎ 1636

**ISO Geeks**  
42yo, LM, 6', 160lbs, ISO geeks and scientifically minded men who aren't involved in the gay scene who enjoy slow oral action and lots of sensual kissing and affection. ☎ 1637

**Discreet Face Fucker Wanted**  
Horny Italian, mid 40s, shaved/buzz cut, mist, goatee, needs discreet face fuckers to pump my gay on regular basis. 6', 180#, handsome & hot...horny & waiting. ☎ 1638

**Cute GWM 27**  
5'6", 135#, seeks older macho muscle studs (to 60) hairy +. ☎ 1639

**Men Of Color Underwear Party**  
For men 20-45, in great shape and like to show it off and play with similar guys. ☎ 1640

**Dominant Asian Top Wanted**  
Big WM, 6'3", 275, wants Asian top. I have deepest throat and best ass, rimjob also available. Dominant only please. Guaranteed great time. ☎ 1641

**Hot Young Versatile Bottom Guy**  
22, 145#, 5'10", goodlooking, 8" cut dick, cute, slim, WM smooth seeks masculine guys 20s/30s, hung, versatile top, goodlooking, athletic, in-shape, for intense passionate encounters: fucking, deep-throating, kissing, cuddling. ☎ 1642

**Kick back & spread your cheeks**  
44, Italian dude, masculine, 6', 180#, mustache & goatee, buzzcut, looking for hot, horny studs to kick back & let me suck your ass & get you off. ☎ 1723

**Ride on my bushy mustache**  
And feel my long tongue up your hot butt. Me: 6', 165#, br/blu, 39. You: hot, trim & ready! ☎ 1724

**Ass sucker for bottoms**  
Love to rim and suck your hole before & after you get fucked. Have hot talented mouth. ☎ 1725

**Dad seeks hard body boy**  
Who has thin, lean, defined physique and loves to get fucked by 8" dick, loves to service dick, tit play. I'm 6'1", 190#, br/blu, 44, muscular, fit. ☎ 1743

**River Phoenix incarnation**  
Strapping young lad seeks gentlemen for super exciting games, fun, festivity & more! Call soon love. ☎ 1726

**Palo Alto Asian cockucking**  
39, 5'11", 185, needs a good drilling. Have car will travel within the Peninsula of SF0 + daytime preferred. ☎ 1727

**Seeking full leather fuckers**  
Handsome, hairy, GWM, 39, 5'10", 210#, HIV+, leather bottom needs his ass pumped full of cum by in shape gloved full leather tops. Playroom is a plus. Pierced dicks welcome. ☎ 1728

**Looking for rough riders...**  
This very top, very masculine GWM wants bottom oriented men & boys who know how to service 6'2", 195#, musc, hairy, & hung stud. You need to be intense, insatiable, and inshape. ☎ 1729

**Glory holes!!**  
Like to stick my big stiff dick into them. Know any good ones? Time & location? SF & N. Bay. ☎ 1730

**Just shut-up and ride!**  
WM, 32, 5'10", 200#, blond-blue muscle hunk (48"ch, 32"wr, 18"arms) wants good looking, masculine men to pump, or get pumped full of squirt. Also love to get massaged & jerked off!! ☎ 1731

**Euro American seeks hot bottom**  
Very attractive top seeks aggressive, creative bottom Asians or Latinos under 35 for fun times and more. ☎ 1732

**A1 oral service for HIV- men**  
SF, GWM, 46, HIV-, handsome, delivers, skilled oral service to trim, mature men who love getting oral attention. Your place. No reciprocation. ☎ 1733

**Head given w/lust, passion, greed**  
Marathon deep throat to the root cock-sucker, dentures, cockhungry bottom dad type for any age, race, size cockproud stud. Give your dick the sensual best, 7 days 24hrs, uncult, couples welcome: group service? Gay, 81, straight. No recip. I suck you insane. My place, your place or the alley??? ☎ 1734

**Some like it hot**  
G8M 38, 5'11", 150#, lean, trim, masc, goatee. ISO uninhibited tops h/wt prep for serious fucking. 1 on 1 or buddy fucks. ☎ 1735

**3 bears ISO the big bad woof!!**  
3 big bears, 5'9"-6'3", goodlooking, bearded, masculine. ISO one or more hairy bear types, top/versatile (more top than bottom) for weekend group fuck sessions in SF or E. Bay ☎ 1736

**ISO mouth and throat stretcher**  
SF, Marin and Sonoma County extra thick, long dicks wanted for sucking, licking, worshipping, slapping and rubbing on face by attractive guy. Huge hung men any age, race call now. ☎ 1737

**Here's the deal!!**  
I'm 35, youthful, handsome, fit, mostly-straight. You're older, polite, clean. Your place. I drink beer and watch porn. You submissively and enthusiastically service my truly beautiful cock and balls. ☎ 1738

**Wanted: young guy**  
WM, br/br, athletic, attractive, healthy, HIV-, 42, bottom, 175#, seeks similar qualities in 20-30yo guy for exploring our sexual desires. Not into scene and live in city a plus. ☎ 1739

**Substitute teachers needed**  
"Tutored" by college English Professor and now I want more. Sk. 60+ (top to penetrates mid 40s near virgin. HIV-, red haired bottom, open to new subjects. ☎ 1740

**Over the knee spankings**  
Sensuous & erotic to heavy. Roleplay possible, novices welcome, limits respected. Me: attrac. GWM, 48, 6'5", 250, large husky build. You: attrac. GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth/moderate bodyhair, nice breasts. ☎ 1741

**God's gift to man**  
God's gift to man seeks same.... ☎ 1742

**Here ye, mountain bears & pigs**  
Bearded Daddies GWM + GWM, HIV+, N 2, T+T, FF, & dildos. LTR/leather preferred. Me GWM 6'1", 205#, s/p hair & goatee, versatile top. Slip-slip/passion. ☎ 1821

**Forensic service**  
WM 45 hairy, hung and hungry for uncult stud with big veiny foreskin dick, unload on my face love that foreskin, I'm in Sonoma County. ☎ 1822

**Seeks older man**  
Vute Latino 26, 5'11", 160, bottom wanted older Black or Latino guys for hot sex. Looks unimportant. ☎ 1823

**Hot and juicy**  
Bubblebutt and deep throat for one or more well-hung studs. Tall, goodlooking in-shape bottom. Ready to take it all-your way! Fill it with premium! ☎ 1824

**Top man seeks hot young head**  
WM 40s, HIV- very masculine in shape dominant top seeks submissive HIV- boy under 30 with cum hungry deep thro9at into older men for long sessions at your SF place. ☎ 1825

**4 hung tops 2 . cum...**  
U need a hot bottom: 37, 6'2", 195, cute h/wt prep, uninhibited, deepthroat, tight butt & ur pleasure. All hung 8" plus, for total downloading into my 2 hungry ports. ☎ 1826

**Horse hung built Black dark meat**  
Very good one! Straight acting tan, 35 yo. Smooth long hair Italian Irish white guy. 5'8", 150#, 7x5" trimmed, hungrily awaits you. ☎ 1827

**Submissive son sought by E. Bay**  
Daddy 40 seeks sons 18-30. You must be submissive bottom and aggressive sucker to please Daddy. Limits respected. ☎ 1828

**ISO Leather SM Daddy Bear**  
6', 220#, flat topped, grn eyes, stache & goatee. Leather cub looking for his strict, aesthetic, romantic & caring Leather SM Daddy Bear to train and down him full time. ☎ 1829

**GWM 40 5'10", 160, seeks GWM**  
18-30 for fun times & travel. You should be clean shaven and love to have sex. Bottoms sought. ☎ 1830

**Adventure some versatile oral**  
And more. Good looking, in shape, mid-40s, GWM ISO others looking for regular, intimate nights together, exploring each others bodies. Taking each other to the limits of ecstasy and back. ☎ 1831

**Leather vide's toys at home**  
G8M seeking to find man of any race for safe play times at home video's all kinds your place please will answer. ☎ 1832

**Lean and hairy**  
If you're a masculine guy with a tight trim build and facial or body hair, a smooth trim masculine WM 40 will give you an erotic oral session. ☎ 1833

**Uncut Latino Bear**  
37, 6'2", 250 lbs hairy fairly with hands & feet is seeking top oriented wk men. Tall and under 50 preferred but open to all. ☎ 1834

**Heavy masculine top San Jose**  
I'm 5'9", 260, about 40, lusty, bright, manly, always hard, and I want a sweet, young lad (under 36), slim, for sex, friendship, maybe more, in San Jose. Answer all! ☎ 1918

**Never can bet enough**  
If you are a top and you like your dick sucked and you can fuck for hours. Answer this 6', 170, 38, and med hairy. ☎ 1919

**Wanted: Big Hairy Firm Butt**  
Well built aggressive top, hung big, needs well built WM (20s-30s) with big firm hairy butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 1920

**Hot bottom ISO 2 Tops in E-Bay**  
GLM, 30, 5'10", 175, Goodlooking with nice body. ISO 2 top to use me on reg basis, you should be HIV- goodlooking 35-45rs, masc & aggressive. ☎ 1921

**Want to serve Daddy**  
Niece GWM 28, 6'4", 220#, mostly bottom, bl/buck, average build ISO Dad for training in obedience, leather, bondage. Be 35-55, clean, HIV- fit to stocky. ☎ 1922

**Do your weenie a big favor!!**  
And put it in my toothless mouth (all the way in). GW masc, clean and healthy seeks same, your weenie & me will thank you. ☎ 1923

**Hot hungry white ass**  
Muscular mature bottom in Oakland seeks hung tops who love fucking and enjoy using rock hard ass & nice tits on healthy HIV+. Shaved head 5'3", 135lb. Smooth defined bod. ☎ 1924

**Got to have a cock suck**  
GWM, 5'11", 170, N/S, N/D, likes to suck & get fucked by a Latino, Black, White with at least 6 1/2" and play with your balls age not factor, call. ☎ 1925

**Hiv+ show/examine/eat assholes**  
With Asian men. Shameless total prolonged sensual exploration, especially of holes, endless rimming/kissing, photos, fantasy play, public adventures, shaving, performing. GWM, 41, 5'11", 165, goatee, 7x5, avg. looks. ☎ 1926

**My one and really only**  
Reason to suck you off is to get your load. Since a really good job maximizes your production, count on me for the most creative possible work on your dick. ☎ 1927

**57 GWM service pervert sincere**  
Seeking master/top to please and obey. Subject is sucker and fuckee. Any ethnicity or age. Ongoing relationship desired. Lace, Lace, ws A+. Subject is HIV- ☎ 1928

**Amateur cocksuckers**  
Think they do it for big dicks. Us pros know better (and do better jobs!) big loads are all that matters. Let see how big we can make yours. ☎ 1929

**Want to play with something?**  
Big. Hows 8 thick uncult inches on a hot inshape blond top. If your inshape, sincere fun, bottom leave a message now!!! ☎ 1930

**Fresh firm and to look at**  
5'7", 150 solid lbs healthy, intelligent, passionate HIV+ GWM shaved head ISO tall, fit, together guy who wants his luxurious huge cock deep throated until he throws me on my back and pounds my tight bubble butt until we both shoot sweaty loads on my firm smooth chest and wants me to take the top every third or fourth session. ☎ 1930

**Oakland guy**  
WM, 33, HIV+ and healthy seeks other positive guys for mutual J/O and oral. Shaved a plus. Let's get naked. ☎ 1931

**Ass sucker for bottoms**  
Love to suck your hole before + After you get fucked. Try my hot mouth. ☎ 1932

## FETISHES

**Feet/heels/socks/and more**  
Attractive Latino 31, 5'11", 190, dark features size 12, Virgo, N/S, N/D. Would like to meet Latino or Whites under 39. N/S, N/D, into foot fetish no games, serious only. ☎ 1643

**Marlboro Man**  
Seeks Marlboro or Camel men. ☎ 1644

**Bubble Butted Blondes In Boots**  
Older guy would like to lick & polish your boots, then turn around and let me kiss your ass like the lowest slave. ☎ 1645

**Goldie Footsleat Pigboy Bearcub**  
GWM, 5'10", 235#, beard, submissive, total insatiable bottom ISO dominant, verbal, sweaty men with smelly feet, socks, balls/cock & pits that need servicing- then rape my ass for hours! ☎ 1648

**Smokers**  
Can't in bars, but still can in my bed. Handsome, 40, GWM, 5'10", 160, ISO Marlboro men under 50 who like to smoke before, during and after. ☎ 1649

**Erotic Wrestling or Cockfights**  
WM 30s, 5'9", 152, seeks lean, slim opponents for wrestling, pulling, slapping, grabbing, piss & cum to pin or submision. Have female who wants to watch. ☎ 1650

**Get The Spanking You Deserve**  
Old-fashioned over the knee spankings by GWM, 40s, on your pants, underwear, & bare butt w/my hand, paddle & belt. Pants down discipline not S&M. Behavior correction guaranteed!! ☎ 1651

**Long Bearded Daddies N2 FF,T-T**  
GWM/GHM, Lev/leather, HIV+, into long sessions w/dildos, T, FF, Me G8M, 6'1", 200#, sh, S/P hair & mustache & goatee. Need to stretch my limitations, kissable! ☎ 1652

**Corporal punishment**  
Meted out to deserving individuals. Training to serve and suffer for the pleasure/entertainment of another. Only those in need of serious training and abuse need apply. Subject should be in good shape, 18-35, no fantasy trips/first timers. ☎ 1744

**Sonoma County cock-worshipper**  
Obedient, gentle/soo, middle-aged, Caucasian, nice-looking, healthy dad, wants to service slender, dominant son, 18-35. No obligation first meeting, then your dick is at my command. ☎ 1746

**Filthy street bare feet**  
GWM, 30, slim, into natural barefoot lifestyles always barefoot, everywhere. Wants similar guys with tough, filthy feet for barefoot outings on grimy streets. Will worship your filthy feet; mutual ok. ☎ 1933

**Older men into kinky sex**  
GWM HIV-, 110#, 5'2", stache, 55yo. Hot hairy little ass. Need finger, cock/s or hands. Also have fantasies about my balls being well stretched, weighted, shaved, tied up, electronic stimulation, from moderate to heavy, respect my limits. I'm serious & ready!! U 8 experienced & horny. ☎ 1745

**Switching gears**  
Masculine WM, 57, long time pussy eater wants to try sucking cock of male 67-70 willing to finish by pulling out and jerking off your hot load on my face before hosing me down. ☎ 1747

**Spankings for deserving lads**  
GWM, 34, 5'10", 180#. Are you 18-34, simply curious or, a bad boy who needs some good old fashioned discipline, then tell me your desires/boundaries. ☎ 1748

**Novice spit slave**  
Wanted: Spitters with thick loads of snot-filled spit. Race, age unimportant, but good ole boy spit tobacco lovers A+. Wrestling or additional ranch possible, but not essential. ☎ 1749

**Nice guy loves barefeet**  
Lifetime excitement looking at and fantasizing about men's barefeet. Gd/ks. East Bay GWM, 5'9", trim, tan, HIV-, loves reciprocal kissing, licking, massaging barefeet and sensual/safe all over body play. ☎ 1750

**Bald/balding men w/facial hair**  
Turn me on. GWM, 26, 6'3", 155, shaved head, goatee, in open LTR seeks men for no strings safe sex, vanilla to kinky. You: any age, race, body type. ☎ 1751

**Hot scat fed to deserving/hungry**  
full service toilets. Will train obedient beginners. Razor strap may enforce compliance (optional). Only the worthy need apply. Have rimscat will travel. ☎ 1752

**V/Exp. Baldbottom ball dad type**  
5'11", 165#, 32"wr, brd. tats, v/much into strong sensations seeks serious heavy duty top fix, any stats, sling master, bondage and your trip, your way all the way. NH8. Thank you. ☎ 1753

**Bondage for bodybuilders**  
WM, late 40s, wants to see your muscles flex and strain as I tie you up and play with your pees, cock, balls, until you cum! ☎ 1754

**Dad seeks son**  
GWM, 54, 5'7", 145#, masculine, top, hairy, NS, HIV-, educated. You: passive, submissive, loyal, devoted, quiet, serious, HIV-, NS, under age 32. ☎ 1755

**Big bear needs whipping**  
Missed trips to daddy's woodshed has made this sucker needs attitude correction. This education is hard work but wise schoolmasters know value of a well applied hickey switch. ☎ 1756

**Looking for a boy...and his dog**  
Help me out my kinky side. I am a 32, 6'1", 200#, clean cut guy. Wool!!! ☎ 1758

**It's the bondage, stupid!!**  
Atte. GWM 38, 5'6", 140#, seeks attr. in shape, masc. single guys, 30-45 with nice feet, for safe bondage with erotic J/O. Versatiles only. Smokers, social drinkers ok. Bondage lovers only! ☎ 1759

**Sex slave wanted**  
GWM, 45, 185#, 5'10", Businessman by day/ Adventurous at night, seeks slave into oral service for this fit, handsome HIV(-) master. You: In shape, under 40, HIV(-) and sane. ☎ 1934

**Scat top wanted**  
Goodlooking guy, mid-30s, seeking similar for raunchy toilet action. I'm mostly bottom, but versatile. Let's get together. ☎ 1935

**Dad seeks son**  
GWM, 54, 5'7", 140, masculine top, NS, HIV neg, hairy-YOU: passive, submissive, quiet, serious, HIV-, needing love/discipline, under age 32. ☎ 1936

**Fisticuffs**  
Strong, tough, hairy skinhead fighter, 5'8", 152#, seeking buddies for sparring, fighting, 8-oz or smaller gloves, prefer bareknucks. UFC-style submission/KO fighting too. ☎ 1937

**Ouch!!**  
Spank me, tie me up, jack me off slowly, while looking into my eyes. Sexy boy, 31, 5'8", 130, seeks take charge man. ☎ 1938

**Tall trim Puerto Rican**  
150 lean daddy type guys 6' tall & taller who love to ride a juicy butt and suck a big dick. ☎ 1757

**Butt-Yumm**  
Your butt hot enough to eat from? Love butts attached to hot tops 18-40 who love their backside serviced as well as sum kinky ideas to with it. ☎ 1939

## COUPLES

**BIAM Seeks White Couples**  
Bi-Filipino, 30, handsome, professional seeks white couples for friendship and exploring sexual fantasies. Versatile. ☎ 1646

**Menage A Trois**  
2 French GWM 28-32yo, cute, not effeminate, in SF-, wanted real male, 25-40 yo, athletic. ☎ 1653

**Bi WM seeks white M/F couple**  
81 white male, br/br, 6', 160#, tqall trim defined body, attractive, seeks white male/female couple for sex. ☎ 1940

**Tag-Team wrestling**  
Two tough, hairy, experienced grapplers seek one-on-one tag-team fights in private ring. Rough-house no-holds barred bouts only, no fantasy crap. Wrestling parties monthly too! ☎ 1941

## OTHER

**Always The Gentleman**  
English former headmaster spans and stimulates naughty boys and girls. Pleasant, dignified situation. ☎ 1552

**My Perfect Mate**  
Great looking GWM, healthy, early 30s, successful, grounded, self-actualized, athletic, adventurous, romantic, sweet-heart. Seeks same. Let's exchange #s and or letters. Call me. ☎ 1647

**Seeking dat's with younger man**  
Attractive, interesting, generous man, 47, 5'10", 155, seeks younger friend for private ring. Rough-house no-holds barred bouts only, no fantasy crap. Wrestling parties monthly too! ☎ 1941

**Nasty imaginations**  
Tops & bottoms, 18-45, into butt play, W/S to extreme ranch, 1st timers, alone or group, come play with couple, one versatile and one submissive pig bottom. ☎ 1835

**Masculine, overweight guys;**  
Are you looking for a discreet Buddy to explore some man to man fantasies & fetishes: underwear, jocks, watersports, ranch? ☎ 1836

**Cowboys W/loads for my throat**  
You: Hat, boots, GWM, 25-45, versatile, HIV-, h/wt proportionate. Me: GWM, 38, dir 8L/8l, goatee, inshape, educated city boy w/country cravings. Leave message w/description. Rowdy/hungry. ☎ 1837


**Heartbeats are a turn-on**  
Muscular defined GWM 41, 175#, swimmers/build with broad shoulders, into pecs/muscle worship, titplay & jacking to heartbeats. Have stethoscopes will travel. Live in Sonoma Co. in SF often. ☎ 1838

**Hot fuck/fist party pig**  
Me: 38 GWM, 6', 165#, br/bl, beard, hairy chest; hung 9+", great butt; vers/mutual. You: top or vers, masc, hung, hairy, pierce, tattoos are pluses. Days or nights. ☎ 1839

**Dominating man or men wanted**  
Seeking single, couples, small group of masculine guys to turn cute, smooth, boyish GWM 32, a complete novice, into an obedient pig (explain) bottom. ☎ 1840

**Whipping needed**  
Bad boy 61 years young needs spanking, whipping. I always do as I'm told or almost always. Punish me please!! ☎ 1841

**Seeking discipline**  
24, tight slim body, sweet face, looking for someone experienced with the inexperienced. More interested in your punishments and head games than in sex. ☎ 1842



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Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words



## Out There

◀ page 34

collective member **Joey Cain**, **Jerry the Faerie**, and **Deadly Nightmare**, a caretaker of the Wolf Creek Radical Faerie Sanctuary and current resident of a cabin we helped to build with our bare hands, the lovely **Halston**. Small world.

The very next night, the Library Foundation's Laureates Dinner brought out a much dressier crowd. The coifed and bejeweled cocktail party clustered around a giant flower arrangement in the Main Library's Atrium to celebrate the new building's second anniversary and honor Bay Area celebs like **Alice Walker** and **Frances Mayes**. Spotted among the Specific Whites: Tales-teller **Armistead Maupin**, *Geography of the Heart* author **Fenton Johnson**, and poet **Francisco X. Alarcón**. Meanwhile, it was a party of generous people with lots of money to donate to a good cause (the Library Foundation helps support the New Main and the equally important Branches



Francisco X. Alarcón

system.) Maybe that's why we were stopped at the door and made to show our press card.

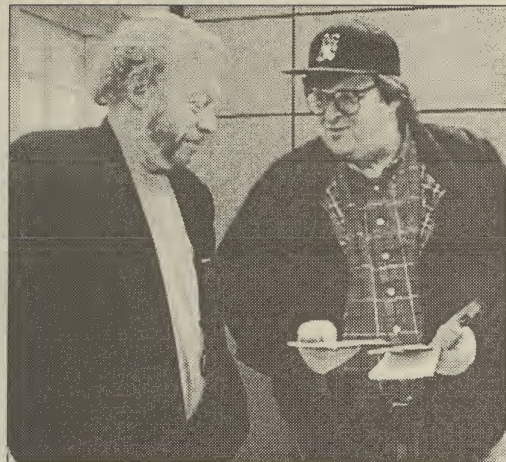
### Moore better blues

Filmmaker and corporate avenger **Michael Moore** (*Roger and Me*) was in town last week to promote his new movie, *The Big One*, opening in San Francisco this Friday night. In this amusing chronicle of Moore's book tour for his subversive bestseller *Downsize This!* *Random Threats From an Unarmed American*,

Moore could not resist the opportunity to force the dark side of the nation's economic upturn — great for Wall Street, but why are wage-earners working longer hours for less buying power? — into the light.

The climax of Moore's cross-country trek is his meeting with Nike Chairman **Phil Knight**, in order to try to persuade the CEO to open a plant in Moore's hometown of Flint, Michigan. A few relevant stats: In 1997, corporate CEO salaries rose 174%. In real income terms, employees' salaries have not risen in two decades. Nike posted record profits last year, with revenues up 42%. But 99% of Nike's shoes are made outside the U.S.

In the new film, Moore does a lot of what he does best: embarrass amoral downsizing corporate profiteers, including Pillsbury, Pay Day, Borders bookstores, and his own publisher, Random House. But our own favorite moment in the film is when he plays a game of Get the Escort — as in "author's escort," the publisher's representative who shepherds the author around town and essentially



Nike CEO Phil Knight with director Michael Moore in *The Big One*.

keeps a corporate eye on him or her. Claiming his escort is a stalker, Moore gets a glib security guy to steer her away from any possible contact with him. It's a maverick author's sweet revenge.

### Hip replacement

*The Hollywood Reporter* breaks the news that gay filmmaker **Gus Van Sant** is planning an updated version of **Alfred Hitchcock's** classic 1960 film *Psycho*. Van Sant intends to work from Hitch's shooting script, and use his dialogue and camera angles. We thought this was an April Fool's joke, but apparently it's true: the creative force behind *Mala Noche* and *Drugstore Cowboy* continues his slide down the slippery slope towards total sell-out. We are promised "hip actors" in the film's key roles. Oh boy, we can't wait.

### Blindsight

Went to the bank the other day to find that it had been upgraded into a bank/coffee bar/(we kid you not) dry cleaner's. We find this preposterous. It's not enough that banks own real estate and vast reserves of capital, now they want our sports jacket, too? It will be a cold day in a Chinese laundry when we bring our soiled undies to the bank to make a deposit.

Speaking of dirty laundry, here are a couple of blind items we've been holding onto, which we need to let go:

What **SF recording engineer** can't seem to keep his big sweaty paws off cute androgynous singers cutting discs in his studio, even though they are paying customers, and he, the help? You'd think he'd get it by now, since two of the recording studio's bookings, back to back, were a **well-known transsexual** and a **hip young ambisexual rocker**, both of whom were having none of it.

What **local gay rag publisher** who should know better continues to stiff her writers, photogs, and office staff, bouncing checks right and left, and having to answer to former employees in cases brought up to the Labor Board and Small Claims court?

What **distinguished historian and scholar**, during a panel discussion on the **Clinton** sex scandals on PBS' *NewsHour*, said, "Everyone knows that **God** made man with both a penis and a brain, and only enough blood to run one way or the other?"

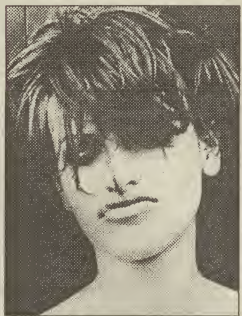
There now, doesn't it feel a lot better when you just let it all out?

### Sucking candy

What's new, what's hot, what's oh-so-fashionable among the beautiful people these days, you ask? Well, according to the latest, "fashion" issue of *Details* magazine, the "now" thing to do is eat

an **Altoid** right before you give a guy head. Yes, that's right, some *Details* reader could not understand why his girlfriend (uh-huh) was giving him such a **great** blow job until she admitted that she'd popped one of the tiny white mints just before taking that down escalator to her man's best parts. Now it's a regular part of their routine. What a fun couple.

We don't want to go on about this too long, because we sure as heck ain't shilling for candy companies now, but the minty-fresh blow-job scenario might help explain one of the heretofore inexplicable bits in comedienne/superstar **Sandra Bernhard's** show, recently at the Alcazar. At one point in the show, Sandra makes a big production out of sucking on one of those powerful mints. Now we know what she knows.



Sandra Bernhard

But we say, why not go those trendy sorts in NYC one better? Surely we SF sexperts can come up with better comestibles to ingest before oral sex. Peanut butter, for stick-to-itiveness? Peppermint Schnapps, for the Altoid effect, plus a kick? Out There readers with suggestions, stories, or life experience are encouraged to write in and share.

### Honeymooners

From the plot summary of *Love Boat: The Next Wave*, to premiere Monday, April 13 on UPN: "Also on-board are a pair of very good-looking men in their 30s: Josh Walter (**Doug Savant**) and Luke Staley (**Jason Brooks**). Josh's bride-to-be has just left him at the altar, and, having paid for a honeymoon suite, Josh decided to take the trip anyway with his best friend. Since they're staying in the ship's honeymoon suite, passengers and crew alike think they are a gay couple. Knowing that some women like the company of gay men, Josh uses this misunderstanding as a ploy for them to meet ... single women." Hey, Josh and Luke: pop an Altoid and blow us! That'll really bring on the babes. ▼

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## BOOKS



## Delovely debut

by Deborah Peifer

*Love Ruins Everything* by Karen X. Tulchinsky; Press Gang, \$14.95

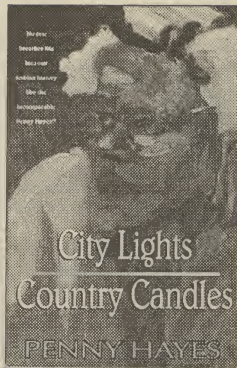
I find that reading the first couple of pages is a good way to decide whether or not to buy a book. In the case of Karen X. Tulchinsky's very funny, very astute first novel, the first two paragraphs are enough to mark *Love Ruins Everything* as a book worth savoring.

The novel opens at Nomi and Sapphire's favorite Thai restaurant, a place they go every week to share a romantic dinner in a beautiful setting, to bask in the glow of their mutual love and commitment. "I think we should become non-monogamous," she [Sapphire] announces. Note the above "we" in a situation that has less "we" in it than I have ever seen. But, of course, when one partner wants to sleep around, isn't it always structured as something "we" should do?

With this bombshell, Nomi, our narrator and hero, discovers that, once again, love has ruined everything. At least if Nomi hadn't loved Sapphire enough to move to San Francisco from Toronto, she wouldn't now be considering mayhem toward herself and others. When Nomi learns that her mother intends to remarry, she decides a trip far away from the treacherous, but still desirable Sapphire is just what she needs to get over her sorrow.

Besides that, her mother gives her no choice in the matter. The interaction between Nomi and her relations forms an important subplot in this richly textured novel. Another equally significant subplot concerns Nomi's gay cousin, Henry, who is gay-bashed by men who may just be punks, but who also may be CIA operatives, or worse.

There is a lot of plot in this novel, but never in my reading did I wish for any less than was provided. Tulchinsky creates vivid and winning (OK, Sapphire's a loser, but what can you do) characters, who are as funny and sexy and interesting as any reader might wish. She does a fine job of capturing both San Francisco and Toronto, with enough detail to be entertaining, but not so much that the pace bogs down in a travelogue. Filled with laughs and a few tears as well as some well-placed outrage, *Love Ruins Everything* is a very fine novel, one that is a pleasure to read and to recommend. ▼



## Uppity women

by Deborah Peifer

*City Lights, Country Candles* by Penny Hayes; Naiad, \$11.95

Penny Hayes has the rare ability to create historical fiction that speaks eloquently to the present while making the past come vibrantly to life. In her seventh historical novel, *City Lights, Country Candles*, she explores the dangers faced by uppity women in the 19th century, as well as in our own.

The novel begins in 1960. Laurie is a straight woman with a boyfriend who regularly has to hide in the bathroom to "finish the job" after she and Joe have sex. Being a woman of her era, she thinks that's OK. Every year, Laurie spends a week on the ranch that belongs to the father of her best friend from college, Eveleen. On this visit, Eveleen's grandmother insists that Laurie listen to her stories of the women in a treasured portrait. The stories are those of women from the 1870s, women who make the tragic mistake of thinking for themselves, of loving whom they will, and as a result, are committed to an insane asylum. Laurie is horrified by the tales, especially because the women are queer, of course not a good thing to be in 1960, or so Laurie believes.

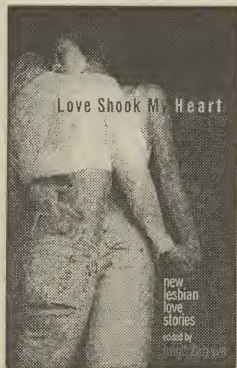
The vivid stories of life in a 19th-century asylum are vividly and shockingly told. Each woman is a well-defined, completely alive character, and each woman's fate is horrific and credible. Many of these women would face the same fate today, only now they would be diagnosed with Gender Identity Disorder, a fact which makes the tales all the more compelling. The connection between good friends, Eveleen and Laurie, is also well developed, and very touching. *City Lights, Country Candles* is a fine tale, one that recreates a terrible time with care, anger, and great compassion. ▼

## All shook up

by Deborah Peifer

*Love Shook My Heart: New Lesbian Love Stories* edited by Irene Zahava; Alyson, \$10.95

Anthologies are always an iffy proposition as far as quality is concerned, but I have observed over the years that



Irene Zahava's name as editor is as close to a sure thing as we readers ever get. Her latest collection is rich and full of life, a delightful and sexy group of stories that can be enjoyed one at a time, or swallowed in one great gulp of pleasure.

Harlyn G. Aizley's "Waiting for Marianne" is a moving story of finding out not only just what you want from life, but also whom you wish to share it with. This is a short story with the complexity of a novel and writing that is exceptionally rich. Tzivia Gover's "At Frank's" tells a tale of homophobia and fear in four tautly composed pages. What makes this story all the more powerful is that it is, on the surface, an account of true love and commitment.

In "First Love at Sweet Briar," the joys and frustration of the first tiny steps toward lesbian sexuality are explored with warm humor. Sally Miller Gearhart's description of the hugs and cuddles and kisses that can go on for months before any clothes come off ("what I am now convinced was the longest sexual foreplay in the history of lesbianism") reminded me of my own clumsy moves toward sex with my first lover. Elissa Goldberg's "Pasta Salad Made From Curled Noodles" is the delightful story of Delia Minor, who, at age 10, learned "that in her lifetime she would fall in love three times and three times only. This meant that she had two more love experiences coming. Cousin Edith's dog, Cleopatra, having been number one."

Don't think for a moment that the few selections I've mentioned are the limit of the wonders in this collection. *Love Shook My Heart* is

a fine anthology, one to treasure and reread. ▼

## Constant companion

by Bob Roehr

*The Complete Bedside Companion: No-Nonsense Advice on Caring for the Seriously Ill* by Rodger McFarlane; Simon & Schuster, \$27

*The Complete Bedside Companion* is the kind of book you buy and put on the shelf as an insurance policy. You hope you never have to read it, but when that time inevitably comes, you are grateful it is there. Gay and lesbian "baby boomers" bore the brunt of AIDS and now, if they haven't seen it already, are increasingly likely to face health challenges in their aging parents. And whether they are in a support role or become the principal caregivers, there is always much to do. McFarlane is a peerless guide.

"Death had been demystified for me at an early age," he says of his childhood. The experience served him well in working in a hospital intensive care unit, and later as executive director of the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

He pulls no punches: "In blunt terms, being a caregiver is about wiping your adult brother; carrying your mother to the bathroom and cradling her head as she retches violently into the toilet; bearing painful witness to the loss of control that disease often inflicts on once-capable adults."

Being a caregiver "demands that we acquire the necessary practical skills, the strategies for

bearing up physically and emotionally, learning how to get the help we need from others and, above all, the self-confidence to transcend our fears and inhibitions."

The book is a compendium of life stories, examples of how people faced the demands of life-ending illness. It is laid out in the best tradition of self-help books, with practical suggestions in short sections, simple text, personal testimony, and ample references for those who wish to explore further.

### Walk-through

Its first two-thirds walk you through from first diagnosis to grieving. You learn the hierarchy of the hospital, concise explanations of what each job title really means. At home, there are the basics from how to take a temperature to how to give CPR. And of course, the matter of paying the bills.

The concluding chapters focus on issues particular to individual diseases such as AIDS, cancer, and Alzheimer's. The ten page table of contents, 22 page index, and internal cross-referencing make it easy to locate sections as you need them.

The principal flaw of this book is that it completely ignores online resources. Medical therapy for many diseases is evolving so rapidly that printed materials can become dated. Online resources are often more current. Disease-specific chat rooms and message boards can offer networking, support, and release for caregivers who often must stay near their ailing loved ones.

McFarlane excels in two ways. First, by explaining the mundane in a thorough, easy to understand, and non-patronizing way. Second, by capturing the pain and the heroics of dying in simple, searing honesty. It is a reality we may wish to avoid, but ultimately we cannot. This is the *Companion* you want beside you when you must take that journey. ▼

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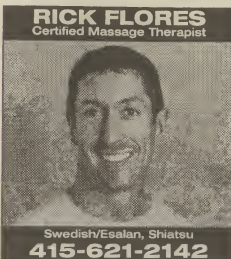
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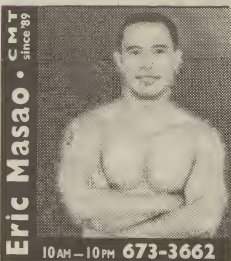
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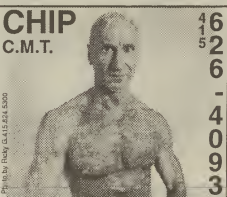
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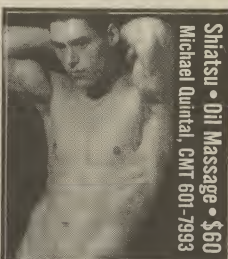
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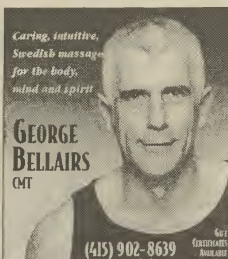
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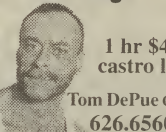
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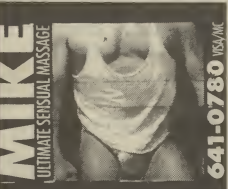
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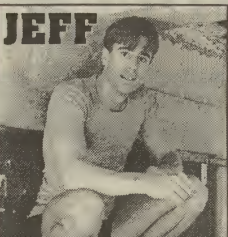
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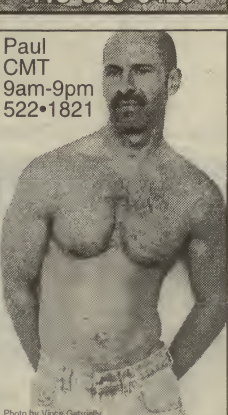
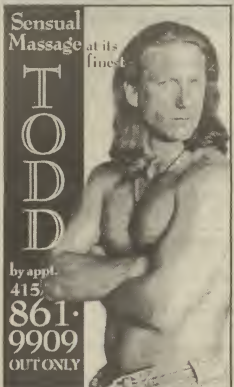


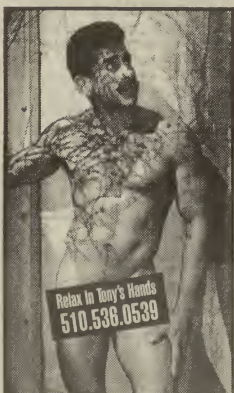
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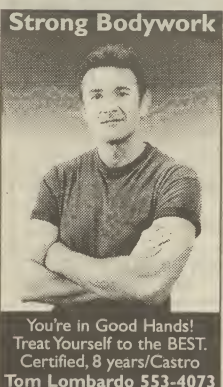
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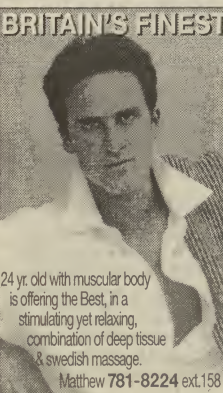
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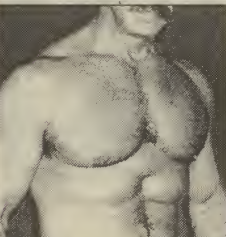
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Top, 9", good looking, tone  
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Sensual, Horny, Affectionate

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769-1066** E18



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## MODELS/ESCORTS

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Jock Strapped for your pleasure.  
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19, 5'10", 150#, 8"  
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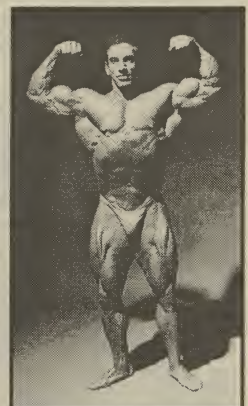
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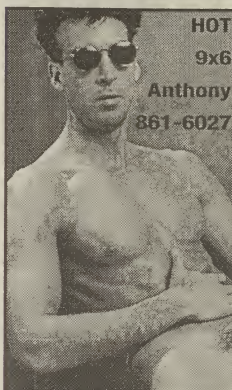




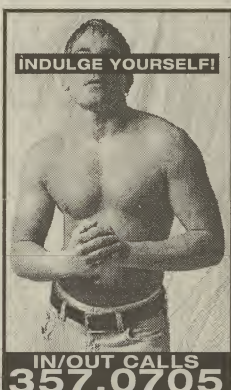
## PERSONALS

## MODELS/ESCORTS

**HOT**  
9x6  
**Anthony**  
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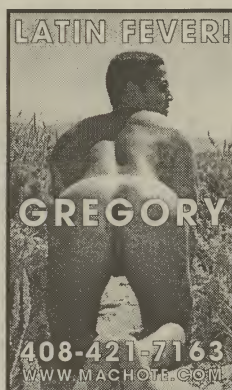


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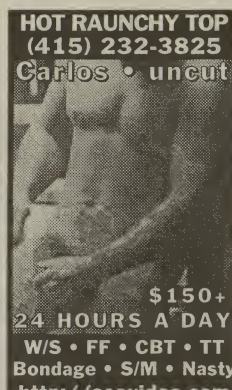


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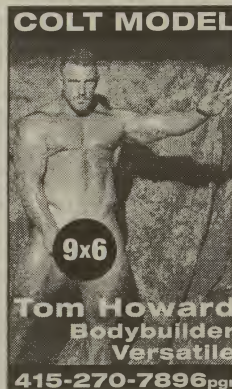
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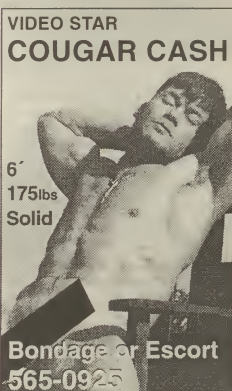
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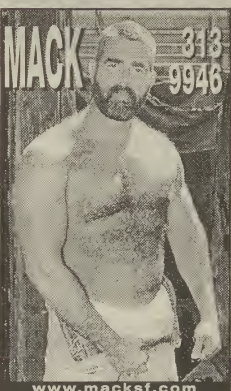
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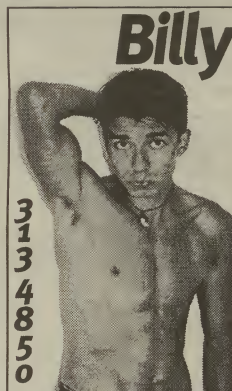


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Classification

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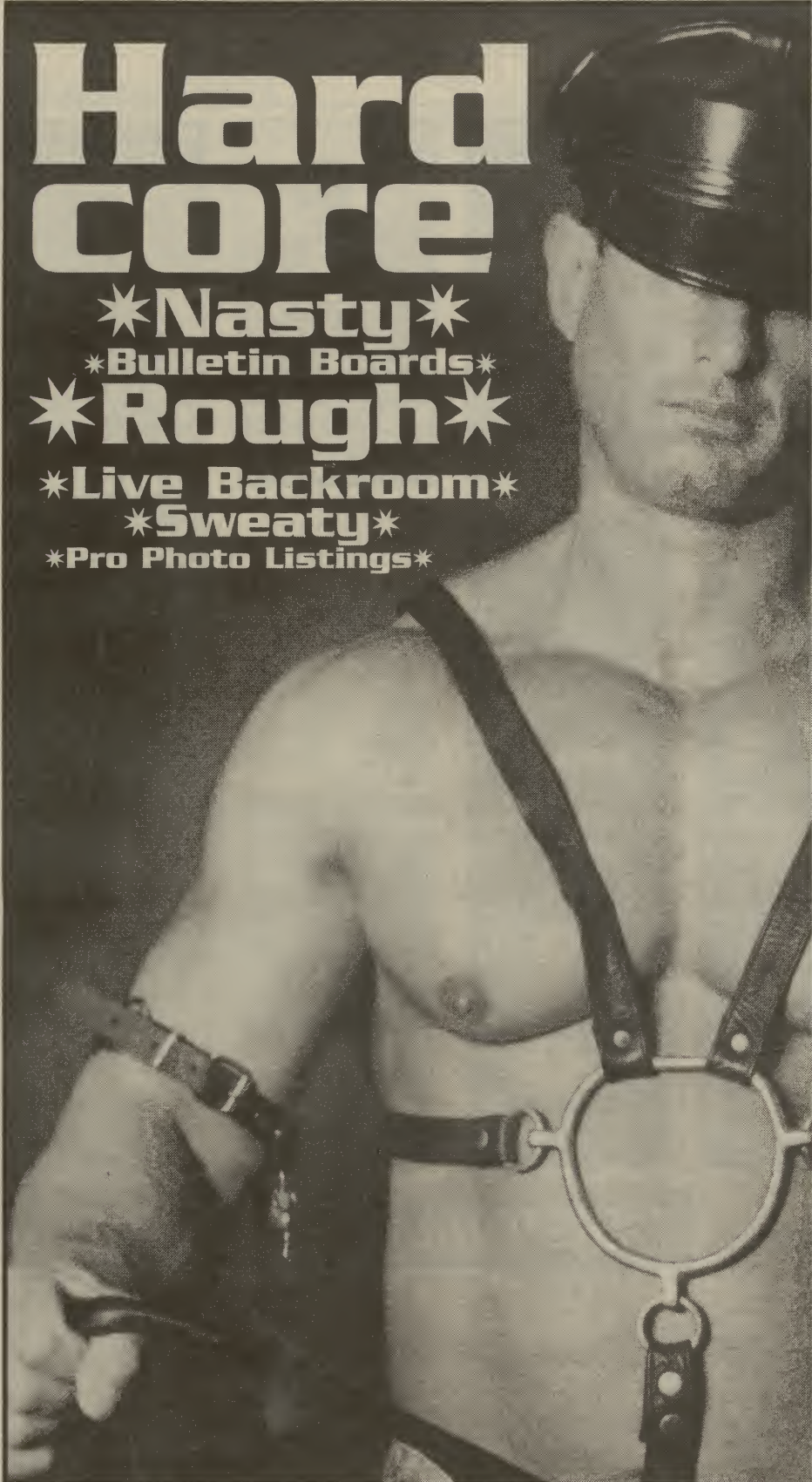
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